

Football '85
Special Issue

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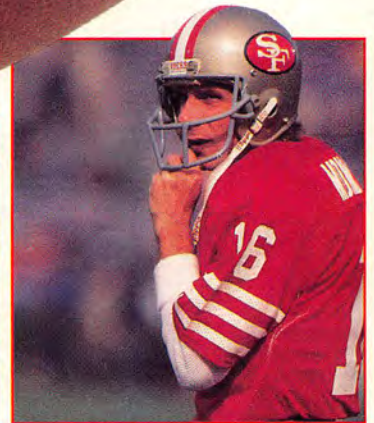
INSIDE

SPORTS

ANNUAL

NFL AND COLLEGE

PREVIEW ISSUE



NFL TEAMS TO BEAT:

AFC

EAST: Miami Dolphins
CENTRAL: Pittsburgh Steelers
WEST: Seattle Seahawks

NFC

EAST: New York Giants
CENTRAL: Chicago Bears

OUR COLLEGE TOP 20:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Auburn | 11. Notre Dame |
| 2. Oklahoma | 12. Arkansas |
| 3. Ohio State | 13. Florida State |
| 4. Florida | 14. Illinois |
| 5. SMU | 15. UCLA |
| 6. Brigham Young | 16. Alabama |
| 7. Iowa | 17. Georgia |
| 8. Nebraska | 18. Houston |
| 9. Washington | 19. Maryland |
| 10. USC | 20. Michigan |

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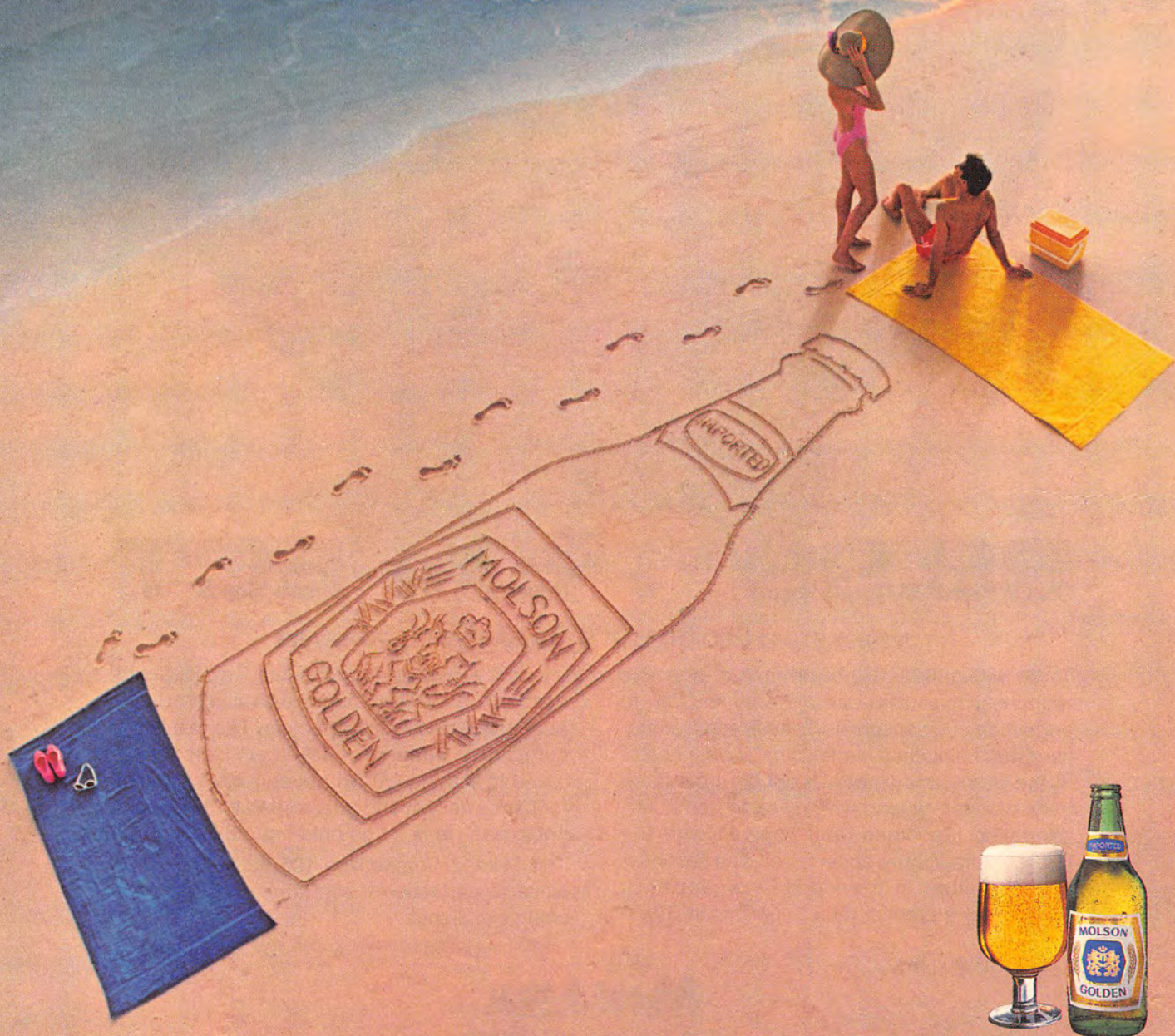
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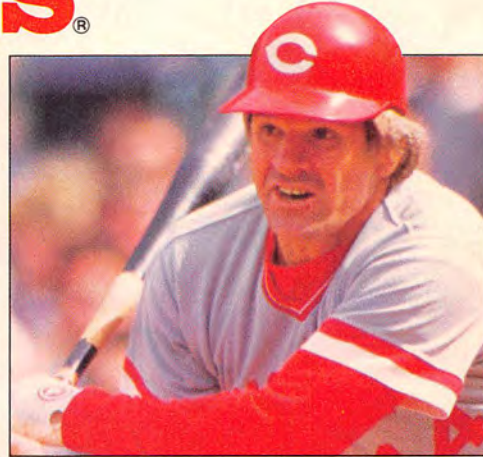
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PIONEERS OF MEDICINE

Advances in Sports Medicine Have Benefited All Injured People

SPORTS IS MORE THAN THE THRILL OF VICTORY AND the agony of defeat. It includes the behind-the-scenes contributions made over the years by sports medicine physicians, coaches, trainers, and other related professionals—those who have seen the field of sports medicine take root and prosper.

Sports medicine, a relatively new area of medical specialization, has been around some 30 years, with the last decade being its period of greatest growth. One of the fathers of sports medicine is Dr. Jack Hughston, 68, who began working with young athletes, trainers, and coaches in 1949.

According to Hughston, the use and application of the principles of sports medicine reaches far beyond the professional playing field. In fact, sports medicine has received the greatest benefit from the interest in orthopedics at the high school level.

"The knowledge we have gained in treating high school and college-level athletes can be applied to the amateur and professional athlete, weekend jogger, or even someone who is older and has broken his hip," said Hughston. "The main area in which sports medicine has made the largest impact is in the training and injury prevention of young athletes."

Hughston grins and nods as he listens to the story of how a football player from the leather helmet era had complained that today's game is too sissy, that football isn't played by "men" anymore.

"Yes, that one's been making the rounds," he says, the look on his face indicating that if it's not the silliest thing he's ever heard, it's close.

"I've heard some young doctors say we ought to get rid of face masks on football helmets so players won't hit with their heads," Hughston adds. "They're too young to remember seeing cuts all over a player's face and tending broken cheekbones and broken noses."

But Hughston remembers. Thirty-four years ago Hughston, an orthopedic surgeon, acted on the belief that if he could treat injured athletes earlier and more effectively, the benefits would include improving treatment for patients with occupational injuries.

That is the genesis behind the new Hughston Sports Medicine Campus, founded by the man regarded as "the father of sports medicine." The campus is located on a 100-acre site in Columbus, Ga., in a medical complex devoted to research, treatment, and rehabilitation of orthopedic and sports-related injuries. The campus consists of Hughston Orthopaedic Clinic, the Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation, the Hughston Sports Medicine Hospital, and Rehabilitation Services of Columbus.

Over the years Hughston and his associates have treated such

sports stars as Jack Nicklaus, Alan Trammell, Hank Aaron, Billy (White Shoes) Johnson, Art Monk, William Andrews, Dan Pastorini, Tree Rollins, Mark Malone, and Tom McMillen.

It all began at high school football games more than three decades ago. "I went to one coach in 1950 and he told me he just wasn't interested," Hughston said. He later pitched his plan to Auburn University football coach Shug Jordan. "He told me he'd never heard



Dr. Jack Hughston: 'A football stadium is like a research lab.'

of having a team orthopedist, but that he didn't see how it could hurt," said Hughston, an Auburn graduate. "He told me, 'I'll work with you and see what comes of it.'" Today team doctors are as common—and considered as necessary—as coaches. Hughston remains Auburn's team orthopedist, and he treated the shoulder of All-America running back Bo Jackson when Jackson was injured during the 1984 season.

"A football stadium is like a research laboratory," Hughston explains. "You see the injuries, learn to recognize them, treat them early, provide proper rehabilitation, and return the athletes to the playing field. And the same techniques carry over into helping the average man go back to work."

According to Hughston, "Our 30 years of work with coaches, trainers, and players has begun to pay off because we see fewer sports-related injuries. From my own personal observation, I would say more than *twice* the number of injuries occur in *nonorganized* sports compared to organized athletic activities."

Historically, an injured athlete turned to the family practitioner,

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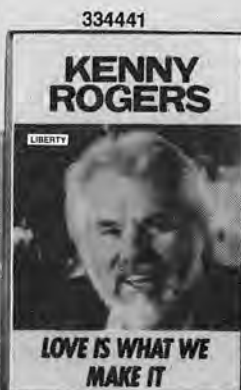
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pediatrician, general surgeon—as well as other medical specialists. Some of these specialists have led the way to the growing new subspecialty, sports medicine, through direct care and education.

Says Hughston: "The concept behind sports medicine is to understand the basic physical demands placed upon the body prior to the athlete's participation. By doing this, a doctor can recognize patterns of injury from one sport to the next, diagnose an injury more accurately, and treat the patient more effectively. That is why it is important to be on the sidelines of athletic events. We can see and understand the biomechanics of the sport, analyze the patterns of injury, and gain knowledge to aid in prevention of these injuries."

Sports injury treatment usually consists of two phases: the rehabilitative phase dealing with physical therapy and psychological problems that can accompany injuries, and the acute phase, which may include surgery.

Arthroscopy is a new tool that aids in diagnosis and allows a less invasive form of surgery in some sports-related injuries. In arthroscopy, a small-diameter scope is inserted into the inner joint to provide a direct view of the inner joint surface. This allows the surgeon to view the injured area, remove tissue fragments and other debris, as well as perform limited surgery without an incision. Arthroscopy enables the patient to begin rehabilitation sooner, often with a quicker return to athletic activity.

"The physician has to know the sport to treat the patient," Hughston stresses. "Watching the game in action, seeing an injury take place firsthand, and understanding how and why it happens is essential for a doctor to treat an athlete. And then we have to listen. Sooner or later, that athlete will tell me exactly the information I need to treat him and change the way he plays his sport—for the better."

SUCCESS FORMULAS



'Never lose an All-Star and get nothing for him.'

Yet, it was just two years ago that Hernandez's departure to the New York Mets for relief pitcher Neil Allen was being heavily criticized. To that, Cards manager Whitey Herzog says: "People can say anything they want about the Keith Hernandez trade, but if we don't trade Keith, Keith becomes a 5-10 player [five years with one team, 10 years in the major leagues] where we can't trade him, and we weren't going to re-sign him. So we would have lost him for nothing. And it's not just Keith. I'm talking about every situation. If you're smart, and you're on the ball, you should never get yourself into that situation where you can lose a player of that All-Star stature and get nothing for him."

The White Rat Reveals a Key To Baseball Success

DURING THE FIRST HALF of this season, the St. Louis Cardinals were the National League's finest offensive team. Leadoff hitter, rookie outfielder Vince Coleman was averaging nearly a stolen base a game. Willie McGee and Tommy Herr were the NL's top two hitters for average, and cleanup man Jack Clark was battling Herr for the league lead in runs batted in. Not many people around St. Louis missed Keith Hernandez.

"First of all, Keith was already making a million. He didn't hit the long ball. He wasn't a speedster. And, really, we had David Green and Andy Van Slyke. Now, what do you do? Do you sign a guy who's already a 5-10 guy, and you can't do a thing with him? Or do you play a young kid with a lot of potential who's making \$40,000? That's just common business sense."

"If I owned a ballclub, and I had an Andy Van Slyke coming up to the big leagues, and I had some sonofabitch making a million-and-a-half that I didn't want to get into a no-trade situation with, I'd find a place for Andy Van Slyke to play. That's the key today to being successful."

PREVENT DEFENSES



The Chiefs Are Committed To Kansas City

THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS HAVE DEVELOPED UNIQUE programs that are aimed at improving the quality of life in Kansas City. The two programs are the Crime Prevention Card Program and the Gridiron Geography Program. The Crime Card Program, now in its seventh year, helps police officers build positive relationships with youth in the community through the distribution of football cards that contain tips on crime and safety. (Sample, on the back of placekicker Nick Lowery's card: "Vacant houses, trash dumps, and construction sites are off limits and dangerous. They are not playgrounds, so stay away.") The Gridiron Geography Program helps teach fifth-grade students United States geography by studying the Chiefs' regular-season schedule. (Sheets are passed out to students asking questions such as: "What river forms part of the northern border of the state in which Art Still attended college?" and "What is the name of the desert in the northeast corner of Arizona the Raiders will fly over?")

The 1985 Crime Prevention Card Program will include more than 200 police departments distributing 4.5 million cards throughout Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Football player cards are distributed exclusively by law enforcement officers to youngsters. The four-color cards include a Chiefs action shot on the front and a tip with a corresponding crime prevention tip and cartoon illustration on the back. Ten cards are distributed in sets of two for a two-week period each. A youngster must have five meetings with an officer over a 10-week period to collect the entire set.

The police love it. "It's the ideal situation to establish rapport with the kids," says Sgt. David Bremson of the Kansas City Police Department. The only problem, Bremson says, is that he gets many requests from adults begging for a set of cards, and "I just can't give them." ■



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By BOB RUBIN

Athlete vs. Media— Mary Decker Takes the Stand

IT HAS BEEN ALMOST A year since The Fall, but the moment remains frozen in time. Mary Decker Slaney lay on the infield grass of the Los Angeles Coliseum, her face contorted in pain, rage, and anguish as the women in the Olympic 3,000-meter final raced away from her, taking with them her lifelong dream of a gold medal and adding another agonizing chapter in her career.

Talk about symbolism—clutched in Decker's hand was the number of Zola Budd, the tiny, precocious South African teen-ager with whom Decker had collided, sending Decker tumbling to the ground and touching off perhaps the most bitter, emotional athletic controversy in Olympic history, one that probably will never be definitively resolved.

Who caused the collision? Decker and her camp blamed Budd; Budd and her people said she was faultless. A majority of neutral observers eventually backed Budd, but there were many who remained convinced Decker had been victimized.

One thing is certain. Decker was devastated by The Fall in more ways than one. Not only were her gold-medal hopes shattered, but her public image, as portrayed by a previously adoring media, was as well.

Decker had always enjoyed a great press. At 15, she weighed 89 pounds, wore pigtails and braces, ran like the wind, and was known with great affection as Little Mary Decker,



There was a surge of poor-little-kid sympathy for Budd, and rips for Decker, who was portrayed by columnists and commentators as a spoiled, petulant crybaby, a bully.

slayer of giants. She was a Chrissie Evert in spikes. When she threw a baton at a Russian woman who cut her off at an indoor meet in Moscow, she got rave reviews for her spunk and fierce competitiveness.

Injuries cost her a shot at Olympic gold in 1976 and continued to plague her afterward.

Her courage in overcoming pain was applauded in print and by TV and radio commentators. Healthy in 1980, she and the rest of the American athletes were victimized by the boycott of the Moscow Games.

So there was a tremendous wave of media and public support for Decker going into the

'84 Olympics. Healthy and at the top of her form, she had become a lovely 25-year-old woman. Now, years of frustration would come to an end, and, fittingly, it would happen in her hometown.

Then The Fall, both from the track and from media grace. Initial sympathy gave way to a wave of criticism in print and on the air, touched off by the venom Decker directed at Budd, whom she blamed personally for her plight, and Decker's unforgiving attitude over an incident no one wanted to happen, least of all Budd. "Don't bother," Decker snapped at a distraught Budd when the youngster tried to approach her immediately afterward. The next day, Decker went on ABC and tearfully savaged Budd to a worldwide audience.

Budd had hero-worshipped Decker to the point of putting Mary's poster up above her bed at home in South Africa. She cried while she was finishing the race, horrified over what she had inadvertently done to her idol. A 92-pound wisp of a girl who ran barefoot, Budd had been at the center of ugly protests in England prior to the Olympics over South African apartheid (as if she was responsible for her government's policies).

Decker's vindictiveness and Budd's weeks of travail combined to produce a startling transformation in media and, consequently, public opinion.

There was a surge of poor-little-kid sympathy for Budd, and rips for Decker, who was portrayed by many columnists and commentators as a spoiled, petulant crybaby, a poor sport, a bully. A heroine became a villain overnight.

Typical was the commentary of Dave Nightingale, national correspondent for *The Sporting News*, who wrote: "In the aftermath of the race, she [Decker] came off as Goliath kicking the bejabbars out of a homeless waif. . . . And although there seemed no earthly reason to continue the drumbeat against Budd the next day, Decker went on worldwide television the next day to do just that.

"It was a bit much when Decker's tear ducts opened once again for the TV cameras. Instead of remaining a sympathetic figure, she was starting to look like a registered masochist. And the world, frankly, was starting to get tired of seeing a rerun of Camille."

Decker is certainly not the first sports figure to get criticized by the media, though it's hard to think of one who went from raves to pans in so short a time. The reactions of the rippers vary. Some (notably Steve Carlton and George Hendrick) responded by clamming up. George Steinbrenner almost seems to relish the rips. Billy Martin lashes back.

Decker was puzzled and hurt. Months

later, as she began serious training for her umpteenth comeback, she still was.

"Was I treated unfairly? Definitely. I think the media has too much power to influence public opinion. People unfamiliar with my sport believed what they said. I was portrayed as a crybaby, but all I was, was a human being in the middle of an emotional

media. Some of Decker's fellow athletes, notably runner and rival Ruth Wysocki, joined in. In an issue of *Runner's World*, Wysocki first praised Decker for her talent, her accomplishments, and her fortitude in overcoming injuries, then added, "However, the attitude she portrayed after that [Olympic] fall is an attitude we have seen all along,



Decker: 'I was a human being during an emotional moment.'

moment, and I can't believe anyone else in my position would have felt or behaved any differently. It wasn't something I planned or thought about. I acted spontaneously.

"[It [the criticism] hurt me. I felt used, and for the life of me I don't know why it happened. The only thing I can come up with is that some people don't like others to be too successful. Envy? I think so."

Asked if she still resented the media criticism, Decker said: "I'm not sure resentment's the right word. What it made me do was look hard at myself because I have to live with myself. I asked myself, 'Is it true what people are writing?' and I concluded it wasn't at all. I'm not a bad person.

"I think animals and children are important. I think both can sense good people. Since the Olympics, I've had so many children come up to me and tell me how bad they felt when I fell and how much they admired me. It amazes me how perceptive they are. I don't know if I would have been."

Her experience at the Olympics has changed Decker's attitude toward the media.

"It made me trust them less. I'd always been trusting and honest, but one of my biggest mistakes at the Olympics was being too honest. They took what I said and portrayed it the way they wanted to. I don't think they deserved my trust. I'm not talking about everyone, but you have to generalize to a certain extent."

The criticism didn't come solely from the

and, in a way, some of us are relieved that the public knows the Mary we all know."

Wysocki added another zinger after Decker's right calf cramped and she had to be carried off the track by her British discus-throwing husband Richard Slaney at an indoor invitational meet in New Jersey in February. It was a rerun of the scene at the Olympics, but Wysocki had no sympathy.

"It's too late," Wysocki was quoted as telling her husband Tom. "They've already nominated for the Academy Awards."

Later, Wysocki said she hadn't been speaking for the record and was unaware there was a reporter within earshot. But she didn't deny the remark.

You'd think criticism from a peer would wound Decker even more deeply than if it came from the media, but Decker brushes off Wysocki's remarks.

"I don't know her very well, and I think 99.9% of it is out of jealousy," Decker said. "It's like an ex-husband saying something, someone who has something to gain by knocking you down. I'm more aware of jealousy now than I used to be, and I think it's partly due to the fact that there's money involved in the sport now. When money's involved, people get brutal."

Decker's feelings about Budd months after The Fall?

"I have no special feelings. I don't dislike her—I don't know her. I wrote her a letter, not apologizing for what happened but for

what I said afterward and for hurting her feelings.

"I didn't get a reply. Yes, I was a little disappointed. I'm sure we'll race against each other again at some point. It won't mean anything special to me, but I'm sure it will to the media."

Will she walk up to Budd and say hello?

"I don't know. I'll have to see how things are at the time."

Decker admitted that in light of all the setbacks she has received, she sometimes feels jinxed. "But when you have bad experiences, the good things you've accomplished become so much more meaningful."

And she means for many more good things to happen. The competitive fires burn as hot as ever inside.

"I'm content in my personal life, but not with my running. My husband said I'll never be content as a runner, and he's probably right. When I run fast, I want to run faster, and there are so many different events to challenge me. I think achievement comes from not being content."

Hours after The Fall, Decker and those close to her drank champagne and made toasts. She raised a glass and said, "To Seoul in '88," a reference to still one more try for Olympic glory.

"It's not a burning desire yet, but the closer it gets, the more it will be," she said.

Meanwhile, Decker occasionally looks back to that fateful day in Los Angeles.

"I'm not haunted by it, but I do think if I had had more experience running in a pack I might have been able to avoid falling, and if I hadn't been so intimidated by the press, I would have nudged her [Budd] to let her know she was cutting in too soon. I didn't because I wanted to avoid all physical contact and stories about how the bully pushed the little farm girl.

"It's funny, because if it had been a Russian or Rumanian runner, no one would have cared. That's what I mean about the media's power to manipulate public opinion."

No one can question that the media does play a tremendous role in shaping public opinion. The question is, was Mary Decker victimized, as she claims, or did she bring it on herself and get what she deserved? It appeared elements of both were the case.

Her behavior was hardly exemplary, but I wonder how her critics would have behaved if their dream, the goal in which they had invested 14 years of blood, sweat, and tears, had fallen apart under such shocking circumstances. Yes, she lost her poise, but who wouldn't have? ■

Contributing editor BOB RUBIN is aware sports journalists can savage a fallen idol, which is one reason he keeps a watchful eye on the media for I.S.



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CHARCOAL MELLOWED DROP BY DROP

By JERRY IZENBERG

The Ping Pong Hustler Who Missed the Boat to China

ONCE, WHEN I WAS eight years old, my mother received a telephone call from a woman down the street who accused me of practicing medicine without a license with her daughter behind their garage. There followed what in later years I recalled as the Great Interrogation. This is hardly an exaggeration, because my mother's chief claim to fame around our house was that she was the inventor of something known as the Torquemada Twist, a maneuver involving her thumb and index finger, whatever piece of flesh was handy, and two and one half counterclockwise turns. Obviously I confessed.

Which undoubtedly explains why my mother cornered my father that evening and suggested that it was time he told me the facts of life. My father, a rather direct person, took me down to the basement to have a little talk. What followed was his version of the facts of life, which is to say, a serious lecture on what he considered important enough to take him away from the sports section.

For the record, his version of the facts of life would not have been much help to Hugh Hefner, Bob Guccione, or Larry Flynt, but years down the road it was still paying off for me. I attribute the wisdom of his priorities to the fact that shortly before World War I, he had successfully augmented his income with a brief but dynamic career as a bowling hustler in Paterson, N.J. The scam came to an abrupt end when a confederate tried to set up a match for him with the same chicken he had plucked just a week earlier.



Young Bergmann would tie the squares in so many knots that he would come out with enough money to keep himself in coffee and kugel for the rest of the week.

"You are now old enough to know the facts of life," he began as I leaned forward, hoping that he would slide past the birds and bees and get to the good stuff in a hurry. "You can get in a lot of trouble if you start fooling around with all of the things you don't understand.

"Someday you are going to go off to college or some other useless place, and you are going to stop in a pool hall and a fellow you never met in your life is going to offer to teach you how to play a little game called eight-ball. Run like hell.

"Someday you are going to get yourself drafted into the Army, and in the middle of the night you are going to hear a lot of noise down in the latrine. A lot of guys will be

squatting on the floor and a lot of money will be down there with them, and one of them—probably the guy with the dice—is going to offer to teach you how to shoot craps. Run like hell.

"Do not even consider trying to draw to an inside straight, never loan or borrow money unless you can run, and never let the second punch in a fistfight be your first. That's about all I can tell you."

"But what about the good stuff?" I asked.

"Oh," he said with a laugh, "I thought you knew that already."

Over the years I have had a great deal of time to ponder that lecture, and it occurs to me that the crux of what he was trying to tell me was that friends in need can be a pain in the ass, but total strangers are pure poison.

Decades later, this occurred to me when I went to a New York ping pong emporium to interview a fellow who was to perform the following evening as the half-time entertainment for the Harlem Globetrotters in an Elizabeth, N.J., armory that looked like an urban renewal project in search of a wrecking ball. I considered the meeting place he had chosen somewhat unusual at the time, but then he was a traveling man and each of us has to find his relaxation in his own way.

"Would you like to play a little ping pong before the interview?" the man, whose name was Richard Bergmann, asked.

A small bell went ding-ding in the back of my head, and for a moment I was back in the basement with my old man.

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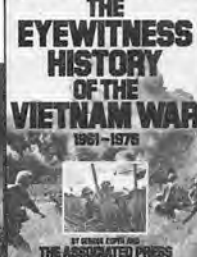
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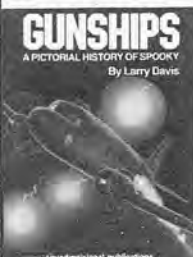
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"We could play for money," he said with a cat-and-canary smile.

Bong-bong-bong. As I drew on my old man's advice, the bell had suddenly become a gong worthy of the Buddha of Kamakura. "Not even for beers," I replied.

"Pity," Bergmann said, and then he told me all about himself, which explained to me why some sixth sense was playing "The Bells of St. Mary's" inside my skull. Bergmann had been hired by Abe Saperstein, who then owned and ran the Globies, to put on ping pong matches at halftime. That he would win them all was never in question.

When Bergmann was 12 years old, he lived in Vienna, Austria, and come hell or high water he never missed a meeting of his local Boy Scout troop. Partly, this was because Richard was loyal, brave, trustworthy, etc., etc., etc. But mostly it was because the Boy Scouts of Vienna had the most active ping pong table in town, and loyal, brave, trustworthy Richard Bergmann was the youngest ping pong hustler in the world. He took his fellow enlistees for so many nickels, dimes, and pennies that they became the first Boy Scouts in history to sell Girl Scout cookies just to pay off Richard.

"Son," his mother, Sophia, would tell him during long Austrian winter nights, "you will never amount to anything unless you study. Work hard and some day you will be an engineer and make lots of money."

"Yes, mama," Richard Bergmann would say, and then he would go down to the weekly troop meeting and tie the squares in so many knots that he would come out with enough money to keep himself in coffee and kugel for the rest of the week.

Now, a Boy Scout may be kind and loyal and generous and all of those things, but that does not necessarily make him an idiot. After a time, it became increasingly difficult for Richard Bergmann to find opponents. It got so that in order to protect his walking-around money while he was not working hard—studying and dreaming of becoming an engineer—he had to play 100-point games, spot the other kids 50 points, and start at minus 30. He had to win 30 points just to get to zero.

"But always," he explained that day, once it became clear that we weren't going to play for money or anything else, "I won. I won actually because I played for money. It is the only way to learn. If you lose money it hurts, and so every point is played to its ultimate. Are you sure you don't want to play?"

The rape of the Vienna Boy Scout ping pong table went on for several years, and back at the house, Sophia was getting damned mad at him. She did not know that he was already playing for money and carrying the entire troop treasury around in his kick,

but she did know that one day he would have to earn a living and she did not see how 27 merit badges and the ability to tie a fisherman's knot were going to contribute toward that end.

But Richard Bergmann knew. He knew that nowhere in Austria—and perhaps anywhere else—was there any record of a man who could consistently make a lead quarter playing ping pong for a living, but he firmly believed that Mrs. Bergmann's son, Richard, was going to show how it could be done, provided he could find enough ping pong parlors in which to remain reasonably anonymous.

So he continued to hustle, but age was beginning to catch up with him. He no longer

'I won because I played for money. It is the only way to learn. Losing money hurts, and so every point is played to its ultimate.'

looked like a choir boy in short pants when he picked up the old paddle. He had already swept through the private ping pong clubs of Austria, where he had played for bigger money, when a guy in England who was looking to market a home ping pong set caught his act and signed him up for four years to promote it. To do it he had to lay off the hustling and get into the big amateur tournaments. "The cups and trophies were very large and they could be worth a lot of money to a man who knew how to dispose of them," he explained, "but then they began to give watches, and that was less easy." You cannot, after all, be at your best in the evening, when you have to compete, if you have spent the whole day stepping out of an alley, buttonholing potential marks, opening your coat and saying, "Wanna buy a watch, buddy?"

But the journey did not end until he played in 50 countries—neither did the hustling. Short on opponents and long on hunger pains, Richard fortunately met Saperstein, who was selling the Globies all over Europe. He explained that all he wanted Richard to do was travel with the team, set up at halftime, and play a young Brazilian hotshot. In addition to the salary, whoever came out on top

during the tour would find a little something extra in the final paycheck.

And so Richard signed on. Mostly, he was based in the United States, except for the times that Saperstein sent him with a troop to Miami Beach, Cleveland, and other foreign countries. Now he was on his way to Elizabeth, N.J. "I have never been to Elizabeth, N.J.," he said in the same tone of voice that Robert Louis Stevenson must have used when he decided to go to the South Seas. "I have a feeling this will be a great night. Are there places there where people play ping pong for money?"

"I don't think so, but then why should you care? That is all behind you now. You are better off working for Abe. I mean we're talking about money here, not some Boy Scout hustle. I'd have to think that there is no way a man could get rich hustling ping pong games."

"Asia," Bergmann said like a man who has given the possibilities a lot of thought.

"I beg your pardon."

"I said Asia. I think I could find what I'm looking for in Asia. Did you know that there are five million registered ping pong players in China alone? Do you think," Bergmann said like a thirsty Bedouin who has suddenly spied an oasis, "that Mr. Saperstein has plans to take his team to Asia?"

I never saw or heard from Richard again. They told me that he went over to Elizabeth the following night and whipped hell out of the Brazilian, making the points just close enough to evoke the proper "oohs and ahhs" from the crowd, which after all was what he was being paid to do, and then moved to the next town with the tour. I promptly forgot him.

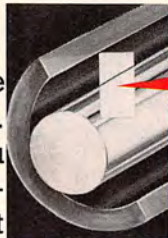
And then, years later, I found myself in the Coliseum out in Nassau, L.I., covering a China-U.S. ping pong match that was the residue of Richard Nixon's mission to Peking. The Chinese were good. Good? Hell, the Chinese were great. There are some who say they were even so great they had to cooperate a little with their hosts in order to ensure that the Americans were able to win at least one game on the tour. I cannot comment on that, because I never saw them play basketball and so I do not know the Chinese attitude on point shaving.

But I confess that I thought of Richard Bergmann that afternoon, and I began to study the crowd. I doubt I would have recognized him, but it occurred to me that, by then, age would have cut down his hustling days in any event.

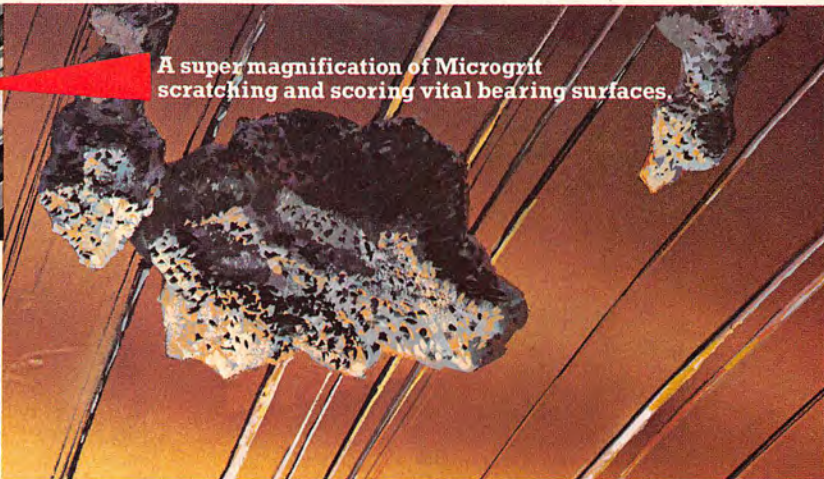
There is nothing quite so sad as an idea born before its time. ■

Ping pong is not contributing editor JERRY IZENBERG's game, but don't play waste-paper basketball with him for money.

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Microgrit—the dirt you
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day's engines it just
went along for the ride. But today's
engines are smaller, harder working
and Microgrit is leaving its mark.
Scratching, scoring, grinding
away at bearing surfaces.
Your engine won't tolerate it.
Why should you?



A super magnification of Microgrit
scratching and scoring vital bearing surfaces.

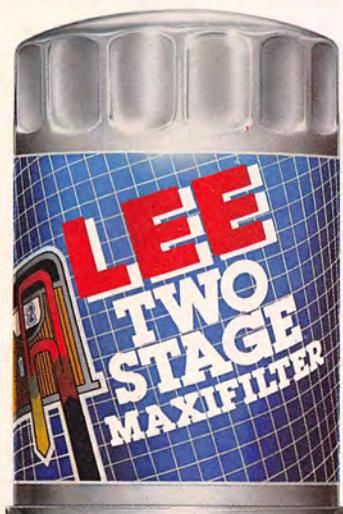


LEE TWO-STAGE TRAPS MICROGRIT.

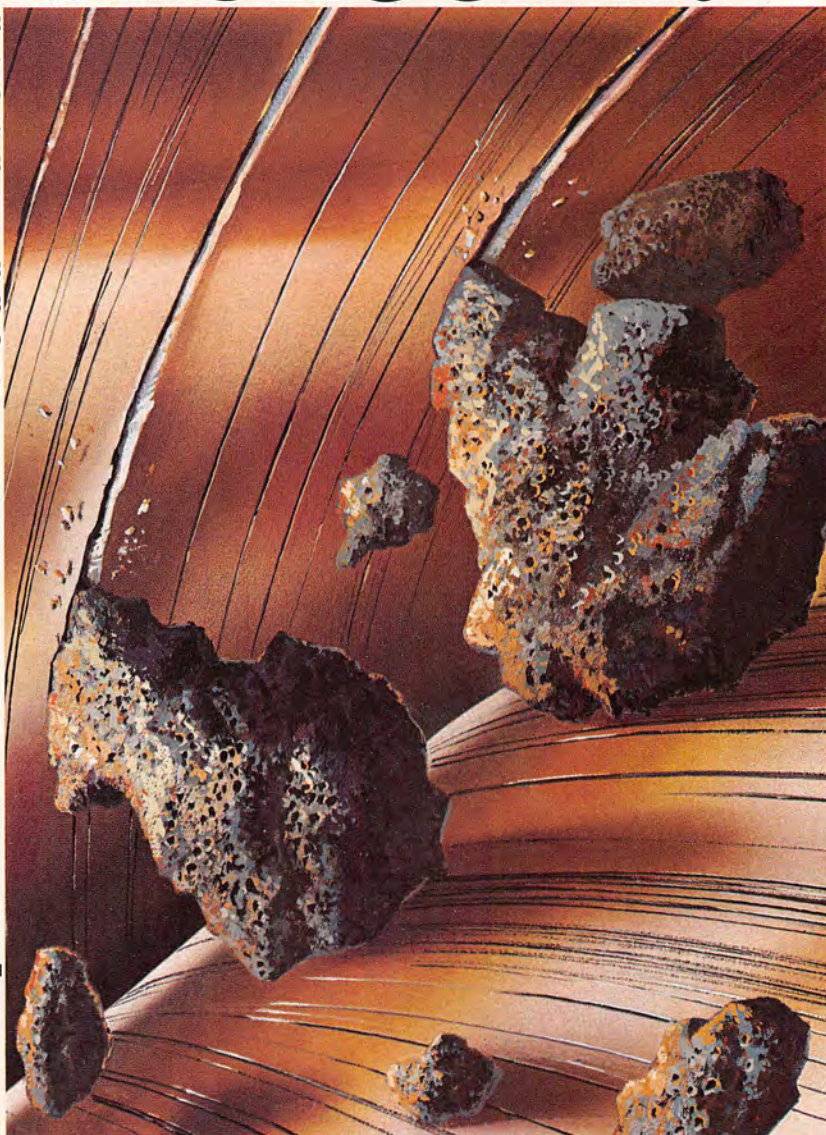
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That's protection. That's clean oil.

Get Maxi protection for today's
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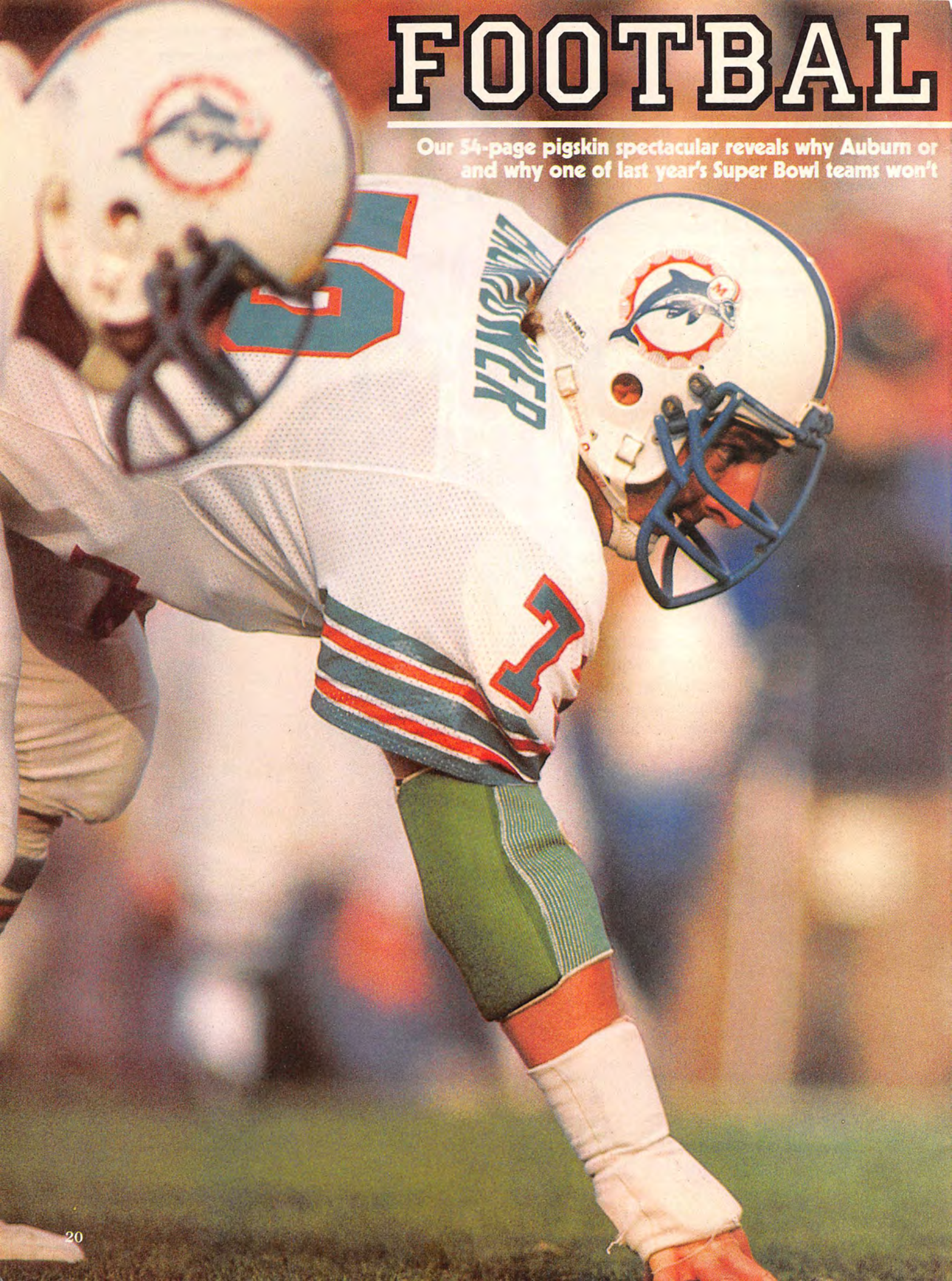


TRAPS MICROGRIT
FOR U.S. AND IMPORT CARS.



FOOTBAL

Our 54-page pigskin spectacular reveals why Auburn or
and why one of last year's Super Bowl teams won't



L'85

Maryland will be No. 1
be there again



Ft. Knox Strikes Gold

Our crystal ball says the Seahawks will get a piece of Montana and the 49ers in Super Bowl XX

By Kent Pulliam and Jim Smith



**American
Football
Conference**

THE MIAMI DOLPHINS ARE THE Beast in the East. Yet, in the American Football Conference in 1985, the Best are in the West, where again three teams will make the AFC playoffs—the Denver Broncos, Seattle Seahawks, and Los Angeles Raiders. And, the Kansas City Chiefs finished the '84 season with victories over Seattle and Denver.

If statistics won games, there wouldn't be any team in football that could compete with the Dolphins. Dan Marino and Company racked up the best offensive numbers in the history of the NFL in 1984, and there is no reason to believe they can't duplicate that feat in 1985 and win the East.

But the only numbers that counted when the final tally was read were 38 and 16, and in Super Bowl XIX the San Francisco 49ers had the 38. This season the Dolphins won't have a chance to find out about the numbers in XX, because they will be derailed in the AFC Championship Game by the Seattle Seahawks, who will be operating with a healthy Curt Warner to go along with quarterback Dave Krieg—who will prove that 1984 wasn't a fluke when he passed for 32 touchdowns and made the Pro Bowl.

The 49ers showed the league how to defense the Dolphins, and the Seahawks' opportunistic defense will take the lesson to heart. Seattle coach Chuck Knox takes understandable pride in his team's sparkling turnover ratio, and this season that number should help take them to the Super Bowl.

In the Central Division the Steelers surprised a few people last season by putting up a new Steel Curtain and locking the favored Bengals out in the cold. And in Mark Malone, Pittsburgh installed a new quarterback who seemed to have steel nerves in big games.

AFC EAST

How They'll Finish

1. Dolphins
2. Patriots
3. Jets
4. Colts
5. Bills



**Miami
Dolphins**

THE DOLPHINS will have little trouble repeating in the East. Dan Marino may never have another season in which he plays as well as he did during 1984—but no one in history ever played as well before.

He completed 362 of 564 passes for 5,084 yards and 48 touchdowns. He was on the Mark (Clayton or Duper) nearly half of the time, connecting with Clayton 73 times for 1,389 yards and a record-setting 19 touchdowns. Duper (who legally became "Super" in the offseason) grabbed 71 passes for 1,306 yards and eight touchdowns.

"We feel we have those same capabilities to continue that record-breaking pace throwing the ball," said Dolphins head coach Don Shula, whose team averaged 32.1 points a game during its 14-2 romp through the AFC last season. "But we also know that we need better balance. You have to have a running game, and it was evident in the Super Bowl that ours needs improvement. When the 49ers went to six defensive backs and invited us to run, we weren't able to."

So, as he has nearly every year, Shula took steps to rectify the weakness in his team. With the Dolphins' first selection in the

1985 player draft, Shula pulled the name of running back Lorenzo Hampton off the board.

The Dolphins defense never had the numbers to match the prodigious offense. It ranked 22nd against the rush and 19th overall. But it was solid despite suffering injuries at nearly every position.

"We started out with some consistency, and then we had some serious defensive problems in the middle of the season," Shula said. "We managed to snap out of it just in time for the playoffs and played well in postseason until the Super Bowl."

The Dolphins don't need to be that much better in the AFC East. They were runaway winners last season and will be again.



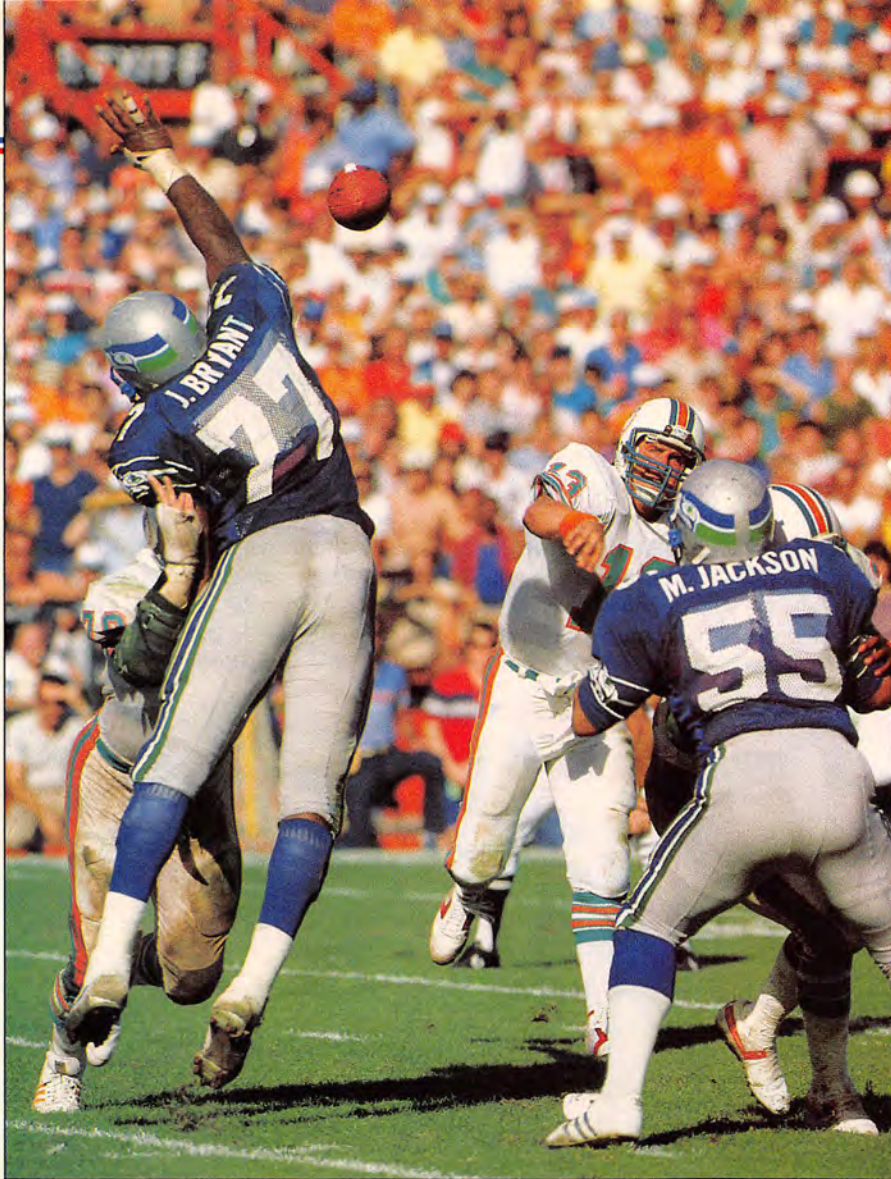
**New England
Patriots**

THE PATRIOTS switched coaches in midstream in 1984, and after Ron Meyer directed the team to a 5-3 start (they were 8-4 before losing three straight late in the season), Raymond Berry finished 4-4 in his half of the season.

They will return to a two-back offense, rotating the threesome of Craig James (790 yards rushing), Mose Tatupu (553 yards), and Tony Collins (550 yards) into the formation, thus making the best possible use of Collins and James—both of whom will have a better chance of avoiding injuries and staying fresh.

"It will allow us to strike the balance that we want," said Berry, who realigned most of the Patriots coaching staff for 1985. "That's not to say that I don't believe in the One-Back offense. I believe there is a place for it."

The place is just not in New England. Tony Eason inherits the starting quarterback spot after establishing a couple of club records during his second season. He finished with 259 completions in 431 attempts, for 3,228 yards and 23 touchdowns. He was the NFL's third-highest rated quarterback behind Marino and Joe Montana of the 49ers.



Marino can be contained.

"In Tony Eason we have a guy who can throw any type of pass," said Berry. "He showed a lot of great leadership qualities last season. He's a fine competitor, and he showed that competitiveness by bringing us back—for instance in the closing minutes against Dallas. You also have to like the fact that Tony doesn't throw interceptions [only eight]."

The biggest problem Eason faces is having time to throw. The Patriots, despite sending John Hannah and Brian Holloway to the Pro Bowl—gave up 66 quarterback sacks, including 10 in the game against the Dallas Cowboys. Berry hired Rod Humenuik (who built lines in Cleveland and Kansas City) to help shore up that part of the team.

Another area in need of shoring up is the defense. The Patriots sacked opposing quarterbacks 55 times but intercepted only 17 passes.

"We need to get better and more consistent pressure on the quarterback," Berry said. "We need more speed to chase down the quarterback. Also, the safeties have to come up with more big plays. Overall we're not getting enough takeaways."



**New York
Jets**

IF THE PATRIOTS don't challenge the Dolphins, the Jets could. They were 6-2 at the



OLSEN: 'Fans Don't Appreciate Line Play'

Defensive line play has taken the same drift as football in general. The responsibilities have become more complex. Most teams go with three-

man fronts on running downs and switch to four-man units on passing downs. The linemen must be on their toes.

The liberalized pass-blocking rules [1978] that permit offensive linemen to extend their arms and open their palms have shifted the balance of power to the offense. It's no longer possible for a defensive lineman to battle head-to-head with an offensive lineman of equal skill—because he's going to be held.

Defensive linemen have to use more stunts and complex, basketball-type screening plays. The requirements of a defensive end have changed. He needs more speed and elusiveness. Mark Gastineau is perfect because he has speed, quickness, and incredible size and strength. But a guy like the 49ers' Fred Dean is what I'm talking about.

Dean can split out and literally outrun offensive

linemen to get to the quarterback. Meanwhile, the defensive tackles do tricks and use strength. I always used a mixture of techniques. And we [the "Fearsome Foursome"] were responsible for a lot of the innovations you see today.

Our coaches, Jack Patera and later Marion Campbell, gave us a lot of freedom. Left end Deacon Jones and I would run stunts [a maneuver in which one player circles behind the other] from three different depths. One was from the line of scrimmage, another on a one-step delay, and the third on a two-step delay. The offensive linemen didn't know when it was coming. We also worked stunts with blitzing linebackers.

There are certain things nose tackles or defensive tackles must do. They must crack the cup—drive the center or guard back—to keep the quarterback from stepping up. That is the job of a power-rusher, like the 49ers' Gary Johnson. If you've got ends flowing around the outside, a step ahead of the offensive tackle, they can't get to the quarterback if he can step up. So a good defensive tackle has to be a cup-cracker, a smasher up the middle.

Guys who do that well are people like the Jets'

Joe Klecko and Seattle's Joe Nash. The guy has to be totally dedicated, because it's a thankless job.

Another thing that's important is long arms, because you have to keep your body off those offensive linemen. Our right end, Lamar Lundy, was a perfect example of that. But it's still difficult to cope with what I see as an unfair rules change.

The new rule makes it possible for an average athlete, by using holding techniques, to neutralize a better player. The depth and quality of one-on-one battles between offensive and defensive linemen isn't there. A lot of offensive linemen today do not learn sound techniques. They simply learn how to hold.

The fans never did appreciate the line play, anyway. They still see the big sacks, the big plays, so they don't notice any difference. But the rules changes encourage passing. That's what the NFL wanted: more scoring. They've gotten it. But what is lost, from my point of view, is some of those individual battles that ended in a nothing-nothing tie.

MERLIN OLSEN spent 15 seasons in the trenches for the Rams. He's now an actor and TV analyst.

'85 FOOTBALL

midway point in 1984 and finished as whimpering puppies with a 7-9 mark. The Jets are scrapping their 4-3 defense in favor of the more popular three-man front. They will move All-Pros Mark Gastineau (22 sacks) and Joe Klecko around the line, and they hope that Ron Fautot (the Jets' No. 1 draft choice in 1984) can make the transition to linebacker.

"We made a big change on defense, going from the 4-3 to the 3-4," said Joe Walton, who hired Bud Carson (defensive coordinator on Pittsburgh and Los Angeles Rams playoff teams) as his defensive coordinator. "I like our defensive theory of being aggressive, and I like the way Bud Carson is planning to move people around. It's what I try to do on offense, make it tough to prepare."

"We've got to improve our pass-rush. We have two Pro Bowl defensive linemen, but there is a problem with the injuries that Joe's had in the past two years. We have to have him healthy for 16 games. This is one area of our football team that, in order for us to have a good year, must show improvement."

Offensively, the Jets also must show improvement. Pat Ryan (11 starts) and Ken O'Brien (five starts) shared the quarterbacking duties, but the best Walton says about them is: "I feel much better about the quarterback position because of the experience that both Kenny and Pat got last year." He hired Zeke Bratkowski to tutor them, and they should improve. Neither has established that he is a playoff—or even a payoff—quarterback.

The receiving corps got a boost with the Jets' first selection in the draft. Al Toon (50 catches for 702 yards at Wisconsin last year) will provide depth should Wesley Walker and Lam Jones continue to have health problems. The rushing game is solid if Freeman McNeil (1,070 yards) maintains the form that established him as the best single-season rusher in club history.

"The key to the running-back situation is a healthy Freeman McNeil," Walton said. "He's a premier running back in the NFL, and he's the key to our offense. The health question of Wesley Walker and Lam Jones has been a problem. We only had them together for half the season."



**Indianapolis
Colts**

THE UNKNOWNNS ON the Colts are mostly on a new coaching staff put together by Rod Dowhower (offensive coordinator of the St. Louis Cardinals, 1983-84). Dowhower has

had a balanced offense that featured a 1,000-yard rusher and receiver in each of the last two seasons. But the Colts don't have a running back named Ottis Anderson or a receiver named Roy Green—or a quarterback who can throw like Neil Lomax for that matter.

Saying that a team which finished 4-12 has strengths is grasping for the slightest of straws. But Dowhower likes the running backs on his club. Fullback Randy McMillan gained 705 yards and Curtis Dickey gained 523 despite missing six games, including the final week on injured reserve because of inflamed knees. Dowhower has hopes that

the pair can take the Colts back to when they had the second-best rushing attack in the NFL during the 1983 season.

"This area is definitely the strength of our team," Dowhower said. "The guys we have here are going to have to be all-around players. They are going to run, block, and catch. They are going to be a big part of our offensive approach."

They will have to be. Neither Mike Pangel (nine starts) nor Art Schlichter (five starts) has developed into a dominating quarterback, and veteran Mark Herrmann (who had the best single-game passing yardage total in 1984) was dealt to the San Diego Chargers to play a backup role to Dan Fouts.

"We will work with the quarterbacks ex-



Stallworth's Steelers refuse to go down in the AFC Central.

tensively, and I will learn enough about our quarterbacks to go ahead and select a starter and stick with him," Dowhower said. "Because our offense will be a multiple type using different alignments, the receivers will have to line up in different formations. They will have to know who they will meet on the defense and how to make the adjustments."

The best of the receivers last season was Ray Butler (43 catches for 664 yards and six touchdowns).

The defense is strong up the middle, where Leo Wisniewski is recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery that forced him to miss the final two games of the season.

The addition of linebacker Duane Bickett with the Colts' first pick in the draft gives them a solid—sometimes even spectacular—crew at linebacker. Barry Krauss was the team's leading tackler in 1984 with 175 stops, 130 unassisted. Johnnie Cooks was the leading sacker with 11½, 10 of them coming in the final six games of the season.



Buffalo Bills

IF THE DOLPHINS had the best numbers in the NFL, surely the Bills had the worst. They ranked 27th in total offense, 23rd in defense, tied for 25th in scoring, and had only 26 quarterback sacks while giving up 60.

"I know, and our players know, there is much work to be done," said Kay Stephenson, whose charges suffered through a 2-14 season and finished with the worst record in football. "We suffered last season, but we stayed together and learned from the experience. Obviously those are all numbers we can't afford to repeat."

There were some reasons. Veteran receiver Frank Lewis had retired, and Jerry Butler missed the full season recuperating from a severe knee injury he suffered during the 1982 season. The quarterback position was turned into a revolving door that eventually revolved Joe Ferguson right out of Buffalo.

The only bright spot was the emergence of rookie Greg Bell at running back. After suffering through a spotty career at Notre Dame because of injury, Bell stayed healthy enough to put together a 1,100-yard season and was the NFL's top rookie rusher. He had the AFC's top individual performance in a 206-yard effort against the Dallas Cowboys.

"With a year behind him, Greg will be a more instinctive, less tentative runner in 1985," Stephenson said. "We are looking to put together a more diversified and more

productive running game. With someone to take the pressure off him, Greg Bell can be an even more effective weapon."

Part of the defensive problem was solved in the draft. Defensive end Bruce Smith was the Bills' first selection. He had 71 tackles behind the line of scrimmage at Virginia Tech, and when the Bills chose to take Cleveland's first-round choice when the Chip Banks deal fell through, they parlayed it into another trade—this one with the Packers—which still allowed them to take cornerback Derrick Burroughs in the first round and grab off wide receiver Chris Burkett of Jackson State to go with Nebraska center Mark Traynowicz in the second.

AFC CENTRAL

How They'll Finish

1. Steelers
2. Browns
3. Bengals
4. Oilers



Pittsburgh Steelers

WHAT CAN YOU SAY about a season in which Chuck Noll took 15 rookies and molded them into a team that wound up in the AFC Championship Game.

The Steelers are the class of a blue-collar division. The only problem the Steelers have is not enough games against good teams. Against the playoff teams, they went 3-1—losing only to the Miami Dolphins during the regular season. They beat the Super Bowl champion 49ers, the L.A. Rams, and the Raiders.

But six of the seven Steelers losses came to teams with losing records. In the division, they finished with a 3-3 mark and only a victory over the Raiders on the final week-end of the season saved them a playoff berth. They lost fourth-quarter leads against Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Houston in their final three losses of 1984.

But that's the bad news. Despite all of that, the defense had the same impressive results as the once-renowned Steel Curtain—if not the reputation. Middle linebacker Jack Lambert suffered a severe toe

injury in the opening game and was hardly a factor all season.

But Robin Cole moved to the inside and Mike Merriweather finished with 15 quarterback sacks as the Steelers put together a string in which they allowed more than two touchdowns just twice in 16 games and finished with 31 interceptions.

Coming into the 1985 season, Mark Malone will get a bona fide chance to stay as the No. 1 quarterback. He lost a preseason battle to David Woodley last year, but when Woodley experienced injury problems midway through the season, Malone came on to direct the Steelers to a 7-4 record, including a playoff victory over the Denver Broncos.

The Steelers don't lack for weapons. Running back Frank Pollard finished sixth in the AFC in rushing with 851 yards. But more significantly, John Stallworth was the Comeback Player of the Year, earning a Pro Bowl berth for his 80-catch performance good for 1,395 yards. Rookie of the Year Louis Lipps finished with 45 receptions and 860 yards.



Cleveland Browns

IF THE NOLL MAGIC fails—for some unknown reason—look for the Browns to make a run at the Steelers. Sure, they finished with a 5-11 mark and far off the pace.

But the Browns sport the AFC's top defensive unit, and nine of the 11 games they lost were in the final minutes. Five games were lost on an opponent's field goal in the last minute.

"We need improvement in all three phases of our team, including the defense," said Marty Schottenheimer, who was 4-4 after taking over at midseason from Sam Rutigliano. "Our defense played very well for most of 1984, but it could have been better. A number of teams were able to make fourth-quarter drives to beat us. With more time, more seasoning, they could be a dominating defense."

There are those who say it already is. The defensive troops are spearheaded by linebackers Clay Matthews, Chip Banks, and Tom Cousineau, who combined with others to limit opponents to just 290 yards a game, and the fewest first downs, fewest passing yards, and fewest touchdowns of any team in the conference. Just as it appeared that a key ingredient to that defense was being shipped off to Buffalo, the Bills chose to take the Browns' first-round selection and sent Banks back to Cleveland.

But the real excitement in Cleveland is going to surround the arrival of local boy

'85 FOOTBALL

Bernie Kosar, whom the Browns took in the supplemental draft after he graduated from the University of Miami this summer. And as the attention was clearly focused on the Kosar situation on draft day, it almost went unnoticed that the Browns made a deal with the Detroit Lions for Gary Danielson.

Insiders with the Browns indicated that Schottenheimer thinks Danielson is a play-off-caliber quarterback who has been saddled with a bad team. Note also that the Browns' quarterback coach is Greg Landry, who was beaten out by Danielson in Detroit.

If Kosar is a million-dollar baby, the Browns could be sitting pretty with a Marino-Strock combination in Kosar and Danielson. If not, Danielson could be the man on the spot.



Cincinnati Bengals

ONE MAN CLEARLY on the spot in the Central Division is Bengals head coach Sam Wyche, whose team was just one game away from a playoff berth last season. The Bengals lost six of their first seven games before rallying to finish 8-8, a game behind the Steelers.

"The 1985 season will depend in a large part on the way the Bengals start the regular season," Wyche said. "Early wins that lead to early momentum will be crucial in our drive for the playoffs this year. In order for us to start quick and win early, the players must come back to training camp in the best shape of their football careers. The strong finish in 1984 has left all of the players, coaches, and staff feeling good about our chances."

The Bengals have a solid offensive line on which to build, with Anthony Munoz, Dave Rimington, Max Montoya, Mike Wilson, and second-year man Brian Blados. A versatile—though not outstanding—group of running backs follows them. The return of Cris Collinsworth after a short fling with the USFL and the addition of Miami's Eddie Brown in the first round of the 1985 draft leaves the receivers solid.

"Our offensive line is among the biggest in pro football and among the most talented," Wyche said of the group that averages 281 pounds per man. "The quarterback position seems crowded at the moment, but all of the players contribute talent, and three of the five bring with them NFL experience."

The quarterback battle, however, will boil down to 15-year veteran Ken Anderson and Boomer Esiason, who started several games as a rookie last season.

The defense was hurt by the team's in-

ability to reach a contract agreement with 1984's first-round draft choice Ricky Hunley at inside linebacker. But Emanuel King, who can play either up or down in the line, could be a big-play man behind Cincinnati's front three of Eddie Edwards, Ross Browner, and Pete Koch (all first-rounders).



Houston Oilers

A NO. 1 GOAL FOR the Oilers will be to get off to a good start in the 1985 season. After losing their first 10 games, the Oilers finished 3-3—a start on the road to respectability.

The defense has been the culprit, and that's why the Oilers loaded up on defensive players early in the draft, taking defensive end Ray Childress with the third selection of the draft and cornerback Richard Johnson in the 11th spot. Defensive end Richard Byrd was taken on the eighth pick of the second round.

"There is much talk about the importance of the '85 draft to our football team, and I am one of those who believes that this draft is going to have a significant effect on our ballclub," said Hugh Campbell, entering his second season as coach of the Oilers. "On the other hand, our major source for improvement must come from our returning nucleus. We expect our returning players to come back and play with greater confidence in their ability."

"The important thing is for us as a team to start out the '85 season where we left off last year, to take advantage of all the things we have learned and to continue to build upon that foundation that was established during the first part of last season."

One of the key ingredients in the Houston attack is quarterback Warren Moon. After a slow start, he completed 259 of 450 passes for 3,338 yards and 12 touchdowns. He has a talented group of offensive linemen in front of him, if they stay healthy.

"Warren Moon demonstrated he has the combination of ingredients it takes to be a real superstar in the NFL," Campbell said. "He has the leadership qualities, intellectual ability, pure passing talent, ability to pass while on the run, and above all a great competitive instinct."

"But at this point it seems the offensive line is our most secure position. All football teams are vulnerable to sudden problems, but we really are comfortable with this group of people."

AFC WEST

How They'll Finish

1. Seahawks
2. Broncos
3. Raiders
4. Chiefs
5. Chargers



Seattle Seahawks

"I THINK THE smartest thing we could do at the Chargers would be to get out of this division," said Don Coryell, head coach of the fifth-place San Diego Chargers. "We lost every game we played in the division and won seven of the eight games we played out of the division."

Realignment being out of the question, the Seahawks are the favorites at the start of this season—apologies again to the Denver Broncos.

The Seahawks, without Curt Warner, who suffered torn knee ligaments in the first game last season, finished 12-4 thanks to their dominating defense.

"We had to go through a transition phase when we went from an offense that was primarily geared to running the football quite a bit to one that was geared to throwing the ball quite a bit," said Chuck Knox. "In doing so we ended up with a quarterback, David Krieg, throwing 32 touchdown passes last year, which was second in the league to Dan Marino. Our offense improved through making that transition, but the greatest improvement came defensively."

The Seahawks finished the season with the sixth best defense of the year—up from about 26th the season before. It is an opportunistic defense that takes its cue from Pro Bowl safety Kenny Easley, the most dominant defensive player in the AFC in 1984.

"Our game is still basically a game of not turning the football over and forcing turnovers on defense," Knox said. "We were again among the top teams in the league—as we have been for a number of years—in turnover ratio. We still think field position is important. I guess we're a little old-fashioned about that. We will punt the football

and play defense if we have to. We will make you come down the field at us and use the real estate so that we can play our situation defenses."

The Seahawks are also a little old-fashioned in that Knox can outcoach most of his rivals in the NFL on any given Sunday. The Seahawks didn't have a first-round draft choice, and in the second round selected running back Owen Gill of Iowa to make sure that there would be an adequate backup for Warner—who appears to be well on the way to a full recovery.

"A healthy Curt Warner is our No. 1 draft choice this year," Knox said.

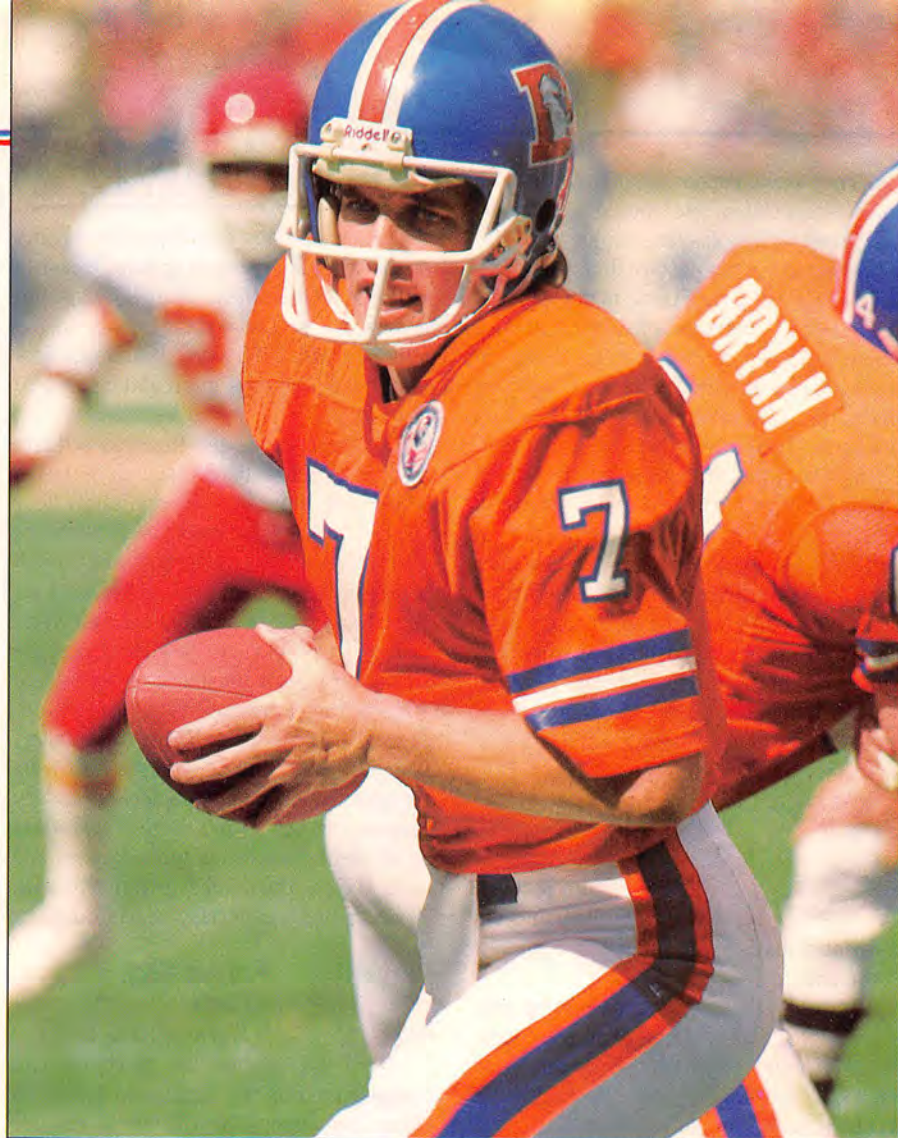


**Denver
Broncos**

IF THE SEAHAWKS falter at all, the Broncos will be more than happy to step in. The Broncos were 13-3, including 10 straight victories during the middle of the season. Head coach Dan Reeves makes no bones about his feeling that his club should be the favorite.

"We are the defending champs," Reeves said. "I think it is always going to be close, and the team that makes things happen and stays healthy will win it. We are in a position where if we don't at least contend for it, it will be a very disappointing season for us."

No team—save perhaps the Seahawks—makes things happen better than the Bron-



Elway emerged as a QB who could snatch last-minute victories.



RUCKER: 'The Trend Is Toward 300-Pound Offensive Linemen'

The biggest change in the game is the leniency with which offenses have been allowed to implement their game plans. And the liberalized pass-blocking rule is responsible.

The rules changes have meant that offensive linemen are getting enormous. You can't play offensive tackle anymore at 260 pounds. You have to be 6'7", 6'8" and 270, 280, because with that size, and the freedom to extend your hands and arms, it gives you great leverage.

Browns tackle Cody Risien was a very good run-blocker and an average pass-blocker—until the rules changed. Then his size and his long arms gave him a tremendous advantage on pass-blocking.

You try to build a bullet-proof vest around the quarterback. Look at the center position. The new guys don't look like Pittsburgh's Mike Webster [245] anymore. They're like Cincinnati's Dave Rimington [290]. They're looking for people

who can neutralize the nose guard without needing help. Not finesse types.

Passing is the quickest way to win games. A lot of coaches only run because they want to control the clock. That's what the 49ers' Bill Walsh does. San Francisco could throw the ball more. But they want to control the clock.

Look at the teams that are winning. Look at their offensive lines and you'll see why. The tackles don't necessarily require that lateral agility anymore. Few people are running quick traps and getting involved with the intricacies of run-blocking. It's easier to throw the ball.

Look at the Raiders. Al Davis starts inside—his offensive line—and builds outside. Denver had a lot of problems until they expended some first-round draft choices on offensive linemen. And a team that's going to be reckoned with in a few years is Houston. They've got five of the best offensive linemen to come out of college in the last five years. The Patriots up front—loaded. Miami has a beautiful offensive line. The Rams. The 49ers.

The trend is to bigger, stronger offensive linemen who are physically awesome. Your tackles

don't have to be mobile. But most of these guys still could pull and lead a run. Look at the Redskins' Joe Jacoby. He's 300 pounds and they use him to lead counter plays. It's just easier to get 15 yards by throwing the ball. Why wear yourself out?

Catching ability now is a key factor in selecting a halfback. It didn't used to be that way. But it was a big factor, say, in the Raiders' selection of Marcus Allen. What would you rather do—take a chance that if one blocker breaks down on a running play, the play loses yardage, or just swing the ball out to a halfback like Joe Cribbs and have him try to make people miss?

Offensive linemen try to make the defensive end's speed work against him by pushing him past the quarterback. There're only a couple of guys, like the Jets' Mark Gastineau and the Raiders' Howie Long, who are fast *and* strong. Most of the guys who are fast are small. You can block them by getting your hands on them. But with Gastineau, it's no mystery. You double- and triple-team him and take your chances with the other people.

REGGIE RUCKER is a former wide receiver and current member of NBC's NFL announcing team.

'85 FOOTBALL

cos. They sacked opposing quarterbacks 57 times last season, intercepted 31 passes, and forced 44 fumbles (recovering 24).

"We improved our pass-rush to where we had one of the top sack totals in the league," Reeves said. "Everybody thought that with Randy Gradishar retiring and Bob Swenson not being able to play, linebacking would be one of the weak areas for us—it ended up being one of our strengths."

Another of the Broncos strengths is John Elway. He emerged in 1984 as a quarterback who could win games for his team.

"It was a key year for John," Reeves said. "One of the concerns that I had was that he came from a program that never really won. They were always supposed to win, but they had never gotten to that point. Now he realizes that he can win. He won a lot of games for us in the two-minute drill last year when the chips were on the table."



Los Angeles Raiders

THE RAIDERS WILL be a factor. They finished 11-5 last season—with injuries too numerous to count.

"We made the playoffs, and going into every season our goal first of all is to make the playoffs and qualify any way we can," said Raiders coach Tom Flores. "We had some problems with injuries."

Paramount among them was the inability to keep either Jim Plunkett or Marc Wilson in the lineup consistently. Marcus Allen finished as the second-leading rusher in the conference with 1,168 yards. But the Raiders suffered from 28 pass interceptions and 20 lost fumbles.

"We have always been the type of team that likes to make things happen as far as offense and defense," Flores said. "Our offense is very old-fashioned, with two backs in the backfield. We still like to throw the ball deep and put some pressure there, and we had some quarterback problems last year. They were both hurt at one time. It hurt the continuity of the team because we had to change a little bit what we were trying to do. Our quarterbacks weren't able to execute."

There was no trouble with the defensive execution, however. The Raiders secondary is among the best—and there is no better pair of cornerbacks than Mike Haynes and Lester Hayes. The people up front, can turn a game around—especially Howie Long.



Kansas City Chiefs

THE CHIEFS FINISHED as perhaps the strongest team in the division in 1984, defeating Denver and Seattle on successive

weekends before finishing up with a 42-21 victory over the Chargers.

The Chiefs defense came of age. Nose tackle Bill Maas solidified the team's middle and teamed with Pro Bowl end Art Still, and on the opposite side Mike Bell, to give the Chiefs as good a defensive line as any team in football.

"I think we are in a position where if we continue to develop our defense it can be a strong force on our team through the year," said John Mackovic, Chiefs head coach. "Our secondary is a very young group of players, and they came on and did some exciting things. Our linebacking crew went through some injuries and changes. Our defensive group is beginning to fall into place to the point where we feel very good about it."

That leaves the Chiefs offense—seventh in passing, 27th in rushing. In Bill Kenney the Chiefs have a solid passer, and in Todd Blackledge they have a solid backup and potential starter. The addition of North Carolina running back Ethan Horton with their first-round selection in the draft could solidify the running game.

"This is a player I really believe can carry the ball 20 to 25 times a game and do it effectively," Mackovic said. "He is a strong, work-type runner. He does his best when he gets the ball in his hands a number of times. He punishes the defense many times because he's a big, physical back."



TRUMPY: 'Receivers Must Beat Tendencies, Not Cornerbacks'

When I was playing, I studied film after film because I had somebody to look at—the strong safety. Ninety-five percent of the time, he had the responsibility of covering me. So I watched Ken Houston, Jim Kearney, and they were watching me all week.

As my career progressed, I was less looking at a person and more trying to read the defense as I left the line. I was looking for a place they were rotating from so I could catch the ball. At the end of my career, defenses were playing 50% zone, 50% man-to-man coverage. From the 20-yard line in, you could almost guarantee it'd be man-to-man.

Nowadays, you don't have a person to look at. You don't have somebody to beat. You go out and try to beat a tendency. Teams use mostly zone coverages. It's a chess game. Receivers come in from college and they've never faced anything like it. It's not two gladiators. It's like running patterns in the middle of the Triborough Bridge, trying to find a dead spot between two cars.

In the old days, teams looked for big, strong

receivers. Nowadays, the receivers most talked about are little guys like Mark Duper and Mark Clayton of Miami. These guys wouldn't have made it back then. They're midgets. They would have been shoved out of their routes by big, strong cornerbacks like Mel Blount.

But when the one-bump rule was established in 1978, receivers started getting small again. It's back to the Lance Alworth type. Guys like Denver's Butch Johnson or Seattle's Steve Largent are valuable. They're not big or fast, but they have a great field of vision. You've got to be able to see out of the corner of your eye to find open spots.

Receivers today have to be quick, resilient, and have guts. The quarterback tries to lead him five yards and make him stop to catch the ball. Otherwise, you have broken bones, hair, teeth, and eyeballs all over the field.

Before the one-bump rule, the game was heading in the direction of 11 250-pound guys playing against 11 250-pound guys. Now, since receivers are smaller, cornerbacks are getting smaller and faster, too.

Tight ends aren't playing as much as they used to. A guy who is 6-5, 240, like Russ Francis, is facing guys who are 180 pounds and run a 4.4 40.

He can't get open. So teams have gone to three and four wide receivers on passing downs. They take out the tight end and sometimes a back.

Big guys like the Giants' Zeke Mowatt and the Raiders' Todd Christensen still have success. But that's because their teams have wide receivers opponents have to double-team. The new role is the slot receiver, the third wideout who can go deep—guys like Seattle's Daryl Turner.

The tight end is not vanishing. But his role is diminishing. I used to play every down. Now, the tight end might play 40% of the plays, a wide receiver might play 40%, and a back the other 20.

Denver, Atlanta, Washington, and the Rams run these U-backs in motion as lead blockers. You used to hear quarterbacks say they took what the defense gave them. Now they say, this is what we're going to do and so you, defense, better adjust.

You'll find more teams calling two plays in the huddle, and the quarterback will audibilize at the line. You'll also see teams going without a huddle—to keep the defense from getting its pass-rushing and pass-covering specialists on the field.

BOB TRUMPY is a former Cincinnati Bengals tight end and current analyst for NBC-TV.

The big back is what the Chiefs lacked. Kenney and receivers Carlos Carson, Henry Marshall, and Stephone Paige provide the firepower through the air.



San Diego Chargers

LIKE THE CHIEFS, the Chargers have firepower through the air, but they again face a fifth-place finish in the AFC West because of defensive problems.

When Dan Fouts is healthy, the Chargers rank among the league's best in passing. Despite nagging injuries, Fouts still managed to rank third in conference passing efficiency (83.4). He connected on 62.5% of his passes for 3,740 yards and 19 touchdowns. But Fouts has had problems staying healthy the last two seasons, and the injury bug bit the defense in 1984.

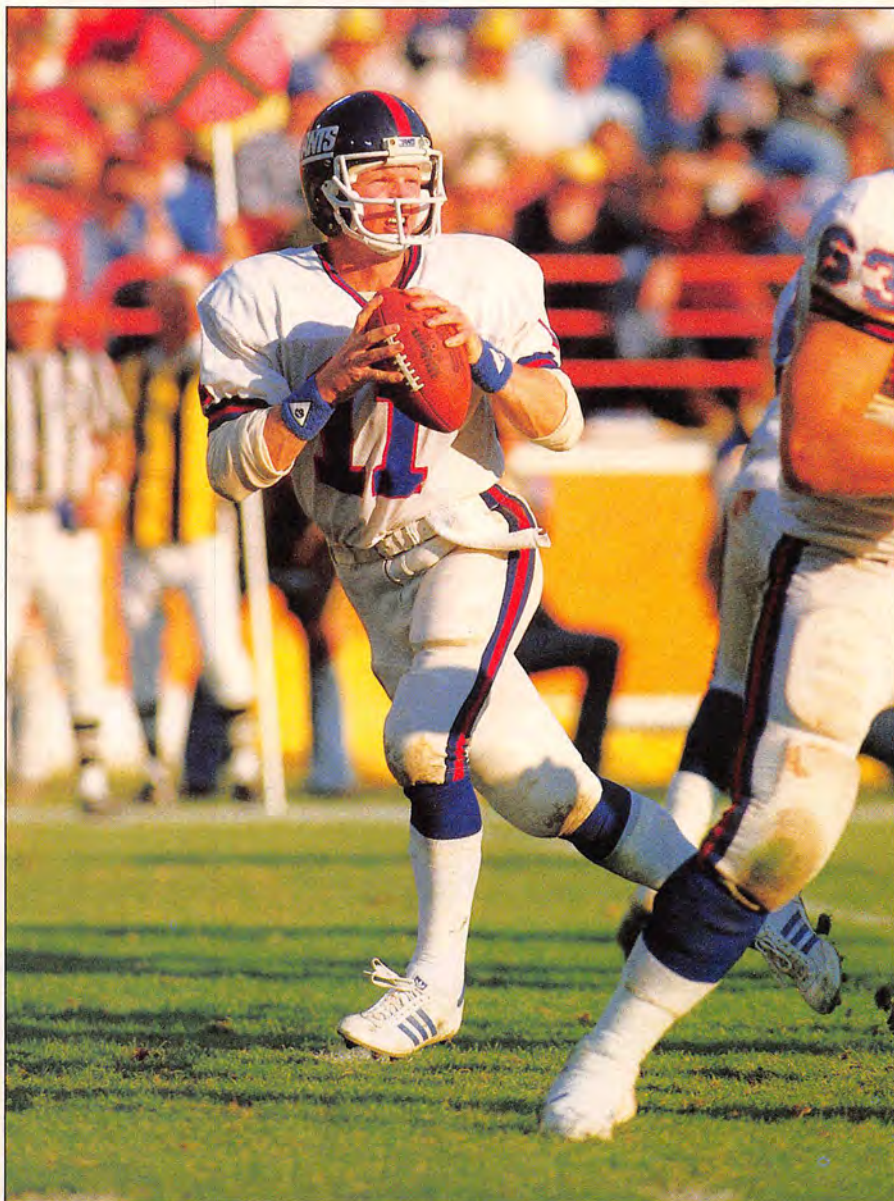
"I certainly hope our injuries have run their cycle," said Don Coryell of his team, which went through 47 roster changes in 1984. "We were really hit hard in our defensive backs, particularly the cornerbacks. We were playing free agents or people who had been waived by at least two other teams."

To help remedy that problem, the Chargers again looked to defense in the draft, after using their first selection to take Jim Lachey of Ohio State, who will help spell 38-year-olds Doug Wilkerson and Ed White on the line.

"Like the last three years, I have said we have to improve our defense," Coryell said. "We drafted for defense, and we'll trade for defensive players, as we have done during past two years."

The linebackers are the most solid part of the Chargers defense, with Billy Ray Smith and Mike Green holding down the inside spots. If Mike Guendling can come back from the serious knee injury he suffered in 1984, he will help by providing more depth on the outside.

But as always, the Chargers mainstay will be the offense. It received a nice surprise in the person of Earnest Jackson last season. He finished as the AFC's leading rusher with 1,179 yards. Ageless Charlie Joiner will return for another year to extend his run at the all-time pass-receiving mark. But the Chargers offense could well depend on how well tight end Kellen Winslow rehabilitates his knee. He underwent surgery to reconstruct the knee, and is not expected back until midseason—though there are some who predict he will not be back at all if he is not able to play as effectively as he did before suffering the injury.



Simms is making up for years of frustration by throwing bombs.

N National Football Conference

TWENTY-EIGHT NATIONAL FOOTBALL League teams are optimistic each summer. But the New York Giants have more reason than most for great expectations. They got to the NFC semifinals with 22 first- and second-year players. This year they think they can go all the way to Super Bowl XX on January 26 in New Orleans' Superdome.

"It's really upbeat here," guard Chris Godfrey said between minicamp workouts at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. "There's an expectancy, a feeling of being

poised to attack." But, since the Giants play in the NFC East, progress won't be easy.

The Central Division Bears never seem to trade for or draft players who spark their offense. Even when they win, they play uninteresting football. They went 10-6 last season, knocked off Washington in the NFC semifinals, but were humiliated by the 49ers, 23-0, in the NFC title game.

The day after Joe Montana led the San Francisco 49ers to their second Super Bowl victory in four seasons, somebody asked what he and the 49ers could do for an encore. "With the type team we have now," Montana said, "I think we're capable of coming back every year. I would like to see this team go down as one of the teams of the '80s."

'85 FOOTBALL

NFC EAST

How They'll Finish

1. Giants
2. Redskins
3. Cardinals
4. Cowboys
5. Eagles



New York Giants

THE GIANTS FIGURE they have no reason to be awed. "We've got that intangible going—momentum," said defensive end George Martin. "Coming close last year, knowing our only obstacle was San Francisco [a 21-10 playoff loss], you have to look at it positively."

"I think everybody's set their sights considerably higher than 9-7," Godfrey said. "I think we're going to take the conference and be in the thick of it."

But if the Giants are to achieve a second straight winning season for the first time since 1963, they will have to run better and score more points than in last year's 9-7 season (299). Since they play in the NFC East, which could be the NFL's best division, improvement will not be easy.

Coach Bill Parcells signed a contract extension through 1988. He had the Giants' weightlifting room re-done and got just about everything he wanted in the draft. Parcells figures the Giants have to score 400 points to win the division and earn a first-round bye.

"Maybe now we have enough firepower to get into that area," Parcells said, after drafting offensive players with six of his first seven picks.

General manager George Young traded his No. 1 pick from 1982, running back Butch Woolfolk, to Houston. Then he drafted Kentucky's George Adams in the first round.

Adams, 6-1, 225, rushed for 1,085 yards, scored 13 TDs, and caught 83 passes last year as a collegian.

The Giants signed New Jersey Generals fullback Maurice Carthon for 1985, which inspired Rob Carpenter, 30, to spend most of his offseason weightlifting and improving his speed. "He's one of those guys where you'll have to drive a stake in his heart," Parcells said.

The Giants also have little Joe Morris, who can stretch a defense, and third-down back Tony Galbreath, who caught 37 passes. "I think we have a lot of versatility among our backs," Carpenter said.

The team's passing game was among the best in pro football in 1984. Phil Simms became the eighth passer in NFL history to throw for more than 4,000 yards and excited Giants fans with bombs to rookies Lionel Manuel and Bobby Johnson, who combined for 81 catches and 11 scores. Simms' clutch target was tight end Zeke Mowatt, whose 48 catches tied Johnson for the team lead. The Giants drafted sprinter Stacy Robinson and fleet Tracy Henderson in the second and fifth rounds.

WHEN YOU EXERCISE, YOUR BODY NEEDS MORE



Their young offensive line was jolted when center Kevin Belcher suffered leg nerve damage in an offseason auto accident, which will idle him for at least a year. Parcells converted tackle Conrad Goode to center and drafted center Brian Johnston in the third round. The rest of the line will be Ard and Godfrey at guards, Karl Nelson and Brad Benson at tackles.

Free agent Simms expected to sign a four-year contract worth at least \$2.5 million. His arm ran out of steam down the stretch, but he showed he could stay healthy for a whole year. Now he must raise his completion percentage (53.7) and lower his sack total (55).

Defensively, the Giants should remain tough. They held eight opponents to 14 points or less and had more sacks (49) than in any season since 1963. Pro Bowl linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson lead the unit. The Giants hoped to re-sign free agent cornerback Mark Haynes, a Pro Bowl choice, but took Tyrone Davis in the third round.

Nose guard Jim Burt was the team's third-leading tackler. Other bright spots were linebacker Gary Reasons and cornerback Perry

Williams, starters as rookies. The Giants lack a devastating run-forcer in the secondary and do not have a dominant pass-rusher. But they have youth, speed, and depth.



Washington Redskins

IF ANYBODY IN THE East dashes the Giants' divisional title hopes, it probably will be the Redskins. It was amazing that the injury-ravaged 'Skins won six of their last seven games and a third straight NFC East championship. They had 16 injured-reserve moves after submitting their final roster. Eight players started each game. The turbulence caught up to them in a 23-19 NFC semifinal loss to Chicago.

"The season," said head coach Joe Gibbs, "was a good test of our fortitude."

The Redskins' 1984 season was a tribute to Gibbs' coaching and general manager Bobby Beathard's recruiting. Beathard continued tinkering in the offseason, getting running back George Rogers from New Orleans for a No. 1 pick.

Fullback John Riggins, who became 36 on

August 4, gained 1,239 yards and scored 14 touchdowns despite an ailing back. If Riggins retires, Rogers will replace him. If Riggins returns, Rogers becomes a key reserve.

The Redskins are 41-16 since 1981, but have many gray heads. Quarterback Joe Theismann will be 36 on September 9. He had average stats (3,391 yards, 24 TDs, 13 interceptions), but only the Super Bowl 49ers and Dolphins scored more than Washington.

"For me," Gibbs said, talking about motivation for 1985, "it's the realization that we were one touchdown away from going to the [NFC] Championship Game."

Gibbs hopes center Jeff Bostic returns to the "Hogs" offensive line after knee surgery, and right guard Ken Huff bounces back from a broken ankle. The unit faces the probable loss of tackle George Starke, 37, to retirement. But the Redskins have depth. Even with the juggling, they had the NFL's fourth-best running game and were second in time of possession. But they allowed 21 sacks in their final three games.

A knee injury limited receiver Charlie Brown to 18 catches. Art Monk compensated with an NFL-record 106 receptions for

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'85 FOOTBALL

1,372 yards and seven TDs. Calvin Muhammad (42-729-4) is a deep threat.

The 'Skins defense had a team-record 66 sacks and was No. 2 in the NFL in least rushing yards allowed. Tackle Dave Butz is 35 and pass-rushing specialist Tony McGee is 36.

Washington's secondary was crippled by injuries, but the team had 21 interceptions, fourth in the NFC. Vernon Dean played well at right corner. Beathard drafted Tory Nixon in the second round to compete with left corner Darrell Green. The Redskins hope safety Mark Murphy comes back after a knee injury.



St. Louis Cardinals

THE CARDINALS

have few worries about age or injuries. Their players' average age is 27, with five years experience. Coach Jim Hanifan's team lost its season finale and the division title to Washington, 29-27, when Neil O'Donoghue's 50-yard field goal try at the final gun fell short.

The Cards hope they can be more consistent than in 1984, which they began 2-3 before winning four straight games, losing three, winning three, and dropping the last. But they have no glaring weaknesses.

Quarterback Neil Lomax threw for a club-

record 4,614 yards and 28 TDs, with 16 interceptions. Opponents used deep drops in zone defenses to negate his long passes, but Lomax was a master at dump-offs to Ottis Anderson (70-611).

The Cards' receivers complement each other. Speedy Pro Bowler Roy Green (78-1,555-12) draws double-teams. That allows Pat Tilley (52-758) and tight end Doug Marsh (39-608) to find seams. The running game depends on Anderson (1,174 yards), but Stump Mitchell is being phased in for his all-purpose ability.

The Cards lost free-agent tackle Luis Sharpe to the USFL's Memphis Showboats, but drafted Scott Bergold and Lance Smith in the second and third rounds to compete with Art Plunkett.

The St. Louis defense gave up 345 points—too many. They have a fine pair of pass-rushing ends in Curtis Greer (14 sacks) and Al Baker (10), and a Pro Bowl middle linebacker, E. J. Junior. To help the pass-rush, they drafted Freddie Joe Nunn No. 1.



Dallas Cowboys

THE COWBOYS' DE-

fense kept them in many games in 1984. Dallas had allowed only 80

points in six games before season-ending losses to Washington (30-28) and Miami (28-21).

"Even though we lost the last two games and missed the playoffs," coach Tom Landry said, "we still played well and came out of them on a positive note."

Dallas has an NFL-record 19 straight winning seasons. But it was not explosive offensively in 1984. The offensive linemen played musical chairs because of injuries, which led to erratic pass protection and a so-so season (1,189 yards) for Tony Dorsett.

Younger Gary Hogeboom played more at quarterback than Danny White, but White had a better rating and was the starter at the end. Landry, the only coach the Cowboys have had (243-141-6), said his top goal is improving the passing game.

The Cowboys tried to trade up in the draft to take wideout Eddie Brown in the first round, but failed. Unless they make a summer trade, they'll go with wideouts Tony Hill (58-864) and Mike Renfro (35-583). Dallas has All-Pro tight end Doug Cosbie (60-789). Dorsett (51-459) and Ron Springs (46-454) can catch. But defenses cheat on them because there is no deep threat.

Defensively, Dallas' line is old but competent. Ed Jones (34), John Dutton (34), and Randy White (32) are joined by Jim Jeffcoat. No. 1 pick Kevin Brooks will be a part-time



STRAM: 'Good Coaches Need Total Control'

Coaching hasn't changed that much since I left the game. There's no magic formula for success. Coaching is three things: accumulating talent, assessing talent, and motivating talent. You have to be able to control all three dimensions.

The successful head coaches today are the same people who were successful when I was doing it: Don Shula, Tom Landry, Chuck Noll, Chuck Knox, Al Davis [Tom Flores], Bud Grant—until 1983. It's hard to put Bill Walsh in that category yet because he hasn't been a head coach that long.

All these people, including Walsh, have total control of their programs. The people with total control have been the most successful. Look at Paul Brown, George Halas, Curley Lambeau. . . All had supreme authority.

I've talked to a lot of head coaches who say it's totally different than the way it used to be because of the money, the concern about longevity, and the fact players have a lot more going for them outside these days. There isn't that single-mindedness of purpose.

I feel success still stems from leadership. You have to have a philosophy. And you have to be strong enough to exercise it. The young players are still looking for discipline and direction. They might not like it at first, but they come to respect it.

The successful coaches have had consistency and continuity in their programs. They haven't made a lot of changes. The teams that change coaches every few years are the ones that haven't had as much success. The tendency is to go from one extreme to the other. If a team lost with a strong coach, he usually is followed by a soft one, and vice versa.

If Minnesota had been a losing program, Les Steckel's gung-ho approach might have worked last year. But it was too extreme. They had won the other way under Grant, and so they said, "Why are we changing our approach?"

There are so many coordinators and assistant coaches today that you see a lot of dirt-kickers among NFL head coaches. The quarterback talks to the offensive coordinator. The linebacker talks to the defensive coordinator. The kicker talks to the special-teams coach. The head coach is walking down the sideline kicking dirt—except those guys I mentioned.

I always felt that it's tough to motivate and aggravate at the same time. That's why I stayed

out of contract negotiations. Most successful coaches do that, too.

Even with all the situational substitution and rules changes, coaching hasn't changed a lot. I don't think great people or great teams do extraordinary things. I think they do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

A head coach must be an innovator. I don't think you can buck trends. The one-back system is being heralded as the savior offense. I think you have to have it in your package. But you have to have balance. That formula won't ever change.

The system in Washington is split because coach Joe Gibbs has a great rapport with general manager Bobby Beathard. Beathard accumulates the talent, they both assess it, and Gibbs and his staff are very good at motivating it.

Some coaches are better if they control it all. Some prefer to just control the playing part. I think Gibbs is one of the bright, young coaches in the game. Once they pump up the balls and put on the helmets, he is in total command. And of the teams I've seen, nobody rehearses better than Washington. So it depends on the makeup of the people involved.

HANK STRAM is a CBS commentator and former coach of the 1970 Super Bowl champion Chiefs.

pass-rusher. The key will be improvement by Eugene Lockhart, who takes over at middle linebacker for retired Bob Breunig.

The NFL's roster cut to 45 might prevent Dallas from using its 4-0-7 alignment on passing downs. But Dallas fans are more concerned about their young players. The Cowboys have not drafted well lately. They hope an exception is running back Robert Lavette, a No. 4 pick, who might have Joe Cribbs-type potential.

"I've been a Cowboys fan since I was knee high," Lavette said. "I guess I'm into that America's Team thing."



Philadelphia Eagles

THE EAGLES DID not know whether they would remain Philadelphia's team this off-season, during which owner Leonard Tose discussed moving to Phoenix. After city officials agreed to defer his annual \$800,000 Veterans Stadium rent for 10 years and granted other concessions, Tose decided to stay.

As with the Cowboys, the Eagles defense helps them stay competitive. They have allowed an NFL-low 15.8 points a game in coach Marion Campbell's six years with the club. The leaders are nose tackle Ken Clarke (10½ sacks), linebacker Jerry Robinson, and safeties Ray Ellis and Wes Hopkins, whom Robinson calls "Frank and Jesse James."

The Eagles must do something about their last-in-the-NFL running game and poor pass protection. They have not found a back to spell Wilbert Montgomery, but they drafted tackle Kevin Allen and guard Greg Naron in the first and fourth rounds.

Campbell hopes quarterback Ron Jaworski recovers from the broken left leg and torn ankle ligaments he suffered in the 13th game. Jaws had the NFL's longest streak of starts among quarterbacks stopped at 116.

Mike Quick (61-1,052; 9 TDs) became the first Eagle since Tommy McDonald (1961-62) to exceed 1,000 yards on catches in straight seasons. But Quick was hampered by the absence for much of the year of speedy Kenny Jackson with a separated shoulder, which limited Jackson to 26 catches. Jaworski and backup Joe Pisarcik were content to dump off to tight end John Spagnola (65-701) and Montgomery (60-501).

"It was a trying season," guard Steve Kenney said, "but we made significant strides—I know we're a better team than we showed."

That's also what the other NFC East teams are telling themselves.

NFC CENTRAL

How They'll Finish

1. Bears
2. Packers
3. Buccaneers
4. Lions
5. Vikings



Chicago Bears

BUDDY RYAN HAS been a big part of the Bears' revival. The defensive coordinator assembled a unit that is strong in all areas, has depth, and may be helped by the addition of draft picks William Perry of Clemson, an immense tackle, and cornerback Reggie Phillips.

"We got a great defense," Ditka said. "We put pressure on people. Buddy has total freedom with the defense. There's no sign on my door that says, 'Genius at Work.' There may be one on Buddy's door."

The Bears set an NFL record with 72

sacks, 12 in their closer against Detroit and 11 in a game against Minnesota. Pro Bowl linemen Richard Dent (17½ sacks) and Dan Hampton (11½) applied the most pressure. Now they have help from Perry, who shed 42 pounds to weigh 318 in May and will play at 295.

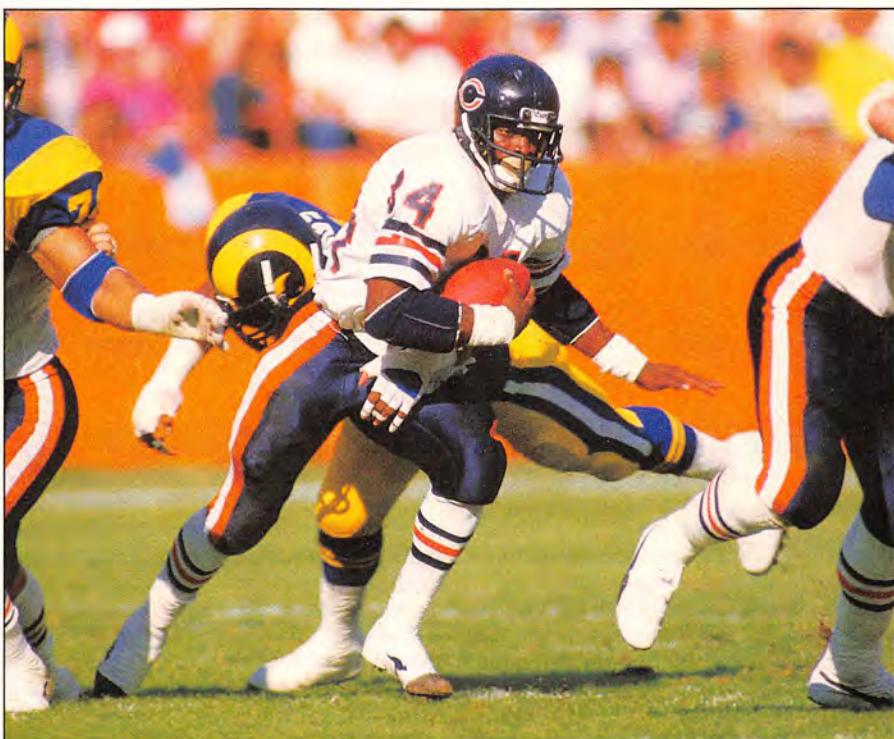
"It came down to the fact that we would rather play with William Perry than against William Perry," said Bears personnel director Bill Tobin.

"He's going to look good in the navy blue uniform," Ditka said. "Or two uniforms. Whatever it takes."

The Bears led the NFL in defense against rushing, were No. 2 against passing, and No. 1 overall. They allowed 20 or fewer points in 12 games. The unit boasts two other Pro Bowl choices—middle linebacker Mick Singletary and safety Todd Bell. The Bears often show a gambling eight-man front and take turns blitzing.

"Some people call it intimidation," Singletary said, "some call it dirty football. We call it clean-cut Bears football."

Chicago keeps its defense well-rested by running often with Walter Payton. The Bears led the NFL in rushing for the second straight year. It took Payton 10 years to get within one game of a Super Bowl. He had one of his finest seasons, rushing for 1,684 yards to eclipse Jim Brown's NFL career rushing record (Payton has 13,309). He also caught 45 passes for 368 yards.



The Bears' one-Payton offense desperately needs to diversify.

'85 FOOTBALL

The Bears have tried without success to diversify their attack. With Jim McMahon or Steve Fuller handing off and throwing short, the offense merely is effective. Both quarterbacks had major injuries in 1984. McMahon is expected to start this year.

"It's nothing glamorous," Ditka said of his offense, "but it doesn't have to be."

Willie Gault and Dennis McKinnon combined for only 64 catches and nine TDs. The Bears hope No. 3 pick James Maness can contribute as a slot receiver. When Bears quarterbacks are under pressure, they look to dump off to Payton and fullback Matt Suhey.

Ditka said of Payton: "He's like the mother duck. All our other backs follow him around. He kind of sets the tone for what we do."

McKinnon criticized Ditka's play-calling in the NFC title game loss, saying the Bears should have tried more short passes. But the Bears had an all-around lousy game. Their defense allowed the 49ers 25 first downs and 387 yards.

"We'll be back," Ditka said.

"We came farther than anyone thought we would," Hampton said.



Green Bay Packers

THE NEW PACKERS coach, Forrest Gregg, had talked about the Super Bowl before last

season. But then Green Bay went 1-7 in the first half. By the end of the year, Green Bay had lost 17 players from Bart Starr's last team, but also had shown promise.

In the second half, only the 8-0 49ers had a better record than the Packers. Three rookies became starters on defense and played well—ends Alphonso Carreker and Donnie Humphrey and free safety Tom Flynn, who led the NFC with nine interceptions.

Green Bay's defense vaulted from last in the NFL to 16th under coordinator Dick Modzelewski, and climbed from 24th against passing to eighth. Gregg was hoping that end Ezra Johnson can come back after back surgery so he can shift Humphrey to nose tackle.

The Packers allowed only 15 points a game in the second half, helped by a veteran quartet of linebackers—John Anderson and Mike Douglass outside, with Randy Scott and George Cumby inside. The secondary, coached by ex-Bengal Ken Riley, was aggressive and intimidating.

"I think that they have learned what it takes to be good in this business," Gregg said.

Quarterback Lynn Dickey was hampered by a back injury early but rebounded to throw for 3,195 yards and 25 scores, with 19 interceptions. Dickey will be 36 in October. The

only other quarterback, Randy Wright, comes off knee surgery.

Packers receiver James Lofton is on his way to the Hall of Fame. He broke his club receiving-yards record with 1,361 on 62 catches. Green Bay was trying to trade free agent John Jefferson. That would mean a promotion for Phil Epps (26-435). Green Bay's thin receiver corps might get help from No. 4 pick Walter Stanley. Tight end Paul Coffman (43-562) is among the best.

The Packers offensive line improved in the second half. But Gregg drafted tackle Ken Ruettgers and guard Rich Moran in the first and third rounds. Green Bay's running backs are solid but unspectacular, led by Gerry Ellis, who ran for 581 yards and caught 36 passes.

"We've established a winning base under new leadership," Douglass said. "We want to be playing in January."



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

THE BUCCANEERS might be happy to last until December. Their injury-decimated defense allowed the most yards in club history in 1984 and was 20th in the NFL.

"I don't see any segment of the defense that could not use some help," said Bennett, 46, who inherits a team with more problems than promise. The Bucs used their first two



CROSS: 'Defensive Backs Need Size and Speed'

There's so much more emphasis on ball movement and scoring, since the rules changes have opened up offenses, that the biggest thing for a defensive back now is to be able to run with wide receivers without being able to knock them off stride.

With the advent in 1978 of the one-bump rule, which allows one contact with a receiver, and only within five yards of the line of scrimmage, if a defensive back wants to take the receiver out of his pattern, he has to do it immediately. The Raiders' Lester Hayes gets right in their face and then hounds 'em all over the field. It's an excellent technique if you have the confidence you can force a receiver to run where you want him to.

But most defensive backs these days are finesse guys. With all the zone defenses, they leave the first five, six yards to the outside linebackers and only worry about attacking-type passes 10 yards downfield.

When I came in, there weren't a lot of speedy receivers. Bob Hayes scared everybody for a

while, but he was rare. Today, there are a lot of fast receivers. Defensive backs have to be sprinters. They also have to be big enough to intimidate. When I played, you could have a linebacker neutralize a receiver by knocking him down. Now you can't do that. The defensive backs have to play honest. They have to have quick feet and be strong enough to deliver a blow.

I admire a guy like the 49ers' Ronnie Lott. He probably wouldn't win many footraces with receivers. But you try to go over the middle on Lott, and most times he's going to win. He hits first and asks questions later. He really shocks 'em.

These days, most teams play zone defenses and try to deny big plays. They try to keep the receivers in front of them. The defensive backs are responsible for certain areas on the field. They know if they have weakside help. They know when they are in single coverage. In my day, there was more man-to-man. Now, it's scientific.

You study pass routes. You learn to read patterns. A safety knows that if they swing the halfback to the flat, the wide receiver on that side is likely to break it to the middle. So the safety sits and waits for him to make his cut.

Then again, if a receiver sees you standing

there, he goes outside. There are a lot more routes today where the receiver has options. So the defensive backs must be flexible, too.

In the old days, I knew with a great degree of probability every route my opponent was going to run. If you're inside, what's he do? If you play him outside, what's he do? What does he do on the strong side? What about when he lines up on the weak side? If I found out that he took 85 of 150 patterns inside, I knew what to expect.

These days, it's more complicated. The Redskins go with one back and sometimes put four wide receivers out there. So what does a defense do? It doesn't want to cover those guys with a linebacker. So it takes out the two inside linebackers and puts in two extra defensive backs. The 49ers used a 4-1-6 in the Super Bowl. A linebacker can't run 40 yards downfield with a guy like Miami's Mark Duper.

The ideal defensive back cannot afford to be as small as these little receivers, though. If John Riggins comes around the corner, who's going to tackle him?

IRV CROSS, a former All-Pro defensive back, is co-host of CBS' 'NFL Today.'



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LIGHT, SMOOTH, MELLOW.

'85 FOOTBALL

picks for defensive end Ron Holmes and linebacker Ervin Randle.

Tampa Bay's three down-linemen—six-time Pro Bowl choice Lee Roy Selmon, nose tackle Dave Logan, and John Cannon—started every game. But the linebacking corps was disrupted. Hugh Green missed eight games with injuries from an auto accident. Cecil Johnson hurt both knees. Rookies Keith Browner and Chris Washington wound up starting.

The Bucs do not have much talent in the secondary. Three of their four safeties are entering their ninth or 10th seasons. "We are concerned with the age of the safety positions," Bennett said.

Tailback James Wilder, meanwhile, had the third-most productive season in NFL history. He gained 1,544 yards rushing and 685 yards on 85 catches. That helped the Bucs offense improve from 28th to 10th. "[Wilder] is an aggressive, straight-ahead runner who can just splatter a defender," Bennett said.

Quarterback Steve DeBerg, who started the last 13 games, completed a healthy 60.5% of his passes and helped the Bucs rank high in first downs (5th), time of possession (5th), and third-down conversions (6th). The offense set club records for yards and points.

Kevin House caught 76 passes for 1,005 yards and Gerald Carter caught 60 for a total

of 136 catches, the No. 3 total by an NFL receiver duo. The tight ends are average, but the Bucs line is improving, especially guard Sean Farrell.

Bennett, the former Falcons coach, says, "I expect us to be able to compete for the championship of our division this year." But if Wilder gets hurt, the Bucs can pack it in.



Detroit Lions

IN DETROIT, COACH Monte Clark was sent packing after a season that began with five losses in the first six games. Running back Billy Sims missed the last eight after major knee surgery.

"I apologized to the team," Clark said after the sixth game. "I'm not getting it done. Maybe my bear-down type of approach is too much. I don't know what to say. I've tried everything I know of."

Lions fans hopes had been lifted when Detroit won eight of its last 11 games in 1983. Clark was fired with three years left on his contract.

The new coach, Darryl Rogers, shipped quarterback Gary Danielson to Cleveland for a future draft pick and acquired 35-year-old Joe Ferguson from Buffalo. Rogers was considering shifting to a 3-4 defense. He said his

pre-draft priority was defense, but then took offensive tackle Lomas Brown and center/guard Rich Glover in the first two rounds.

Only left guard Chris Dietrich and right tackle Keith Dorney started every game among the linemen last year. The Lions offensive MVP was fullback James Jones, who caught 77 passes for 662 yards. Detroit has one of the worst receiver corps in the NFL, led by Leonard Thompson (50-773) and Mark Nichols (34-744).

With a mediocre offensive line and a new quarterback—unless Eric Hipple gets his starting job back—Detroit will depend on Sims. He won't be enough to carry the Lions to a .500 season.

The defense could stand revamping. Linemen William Gay, Curtis Green, Mike Cofer, and Doug English combined for a not-too-impressive 29 sacks. Defensive backs Bobby Watkins, Bruce McNorton, William Graham, and Alvin Hall totaled only 13 interceptions. Linebackers Garry Cobb, Ken Fantetti, and Jimmy Williams did not strike fear into many hearts.

The Lions might get worse before they get better.



Minnesota Vikings

THE VIKINGS ARE IN the same confused state as the Lions. But at least they have stability



JONES: 'TV Coverage of Football Should Be More Investigative'

In 1960, we did a telecast with three black-and-white cameras, one at the 50-yard line and one at each 20. That was very innovative at the time. CBS kept all their cameras at the 50.

It was that way for the next 10 or 12 years. The feeling was that the 50-yard line was the best seat in the house and that's where the viewer wanted to be. When CBS did Super Bowl I in 1967, they had 11 cameras stacked at the 50.

The next move was to shift a camera to the endzone. That was big news. Then in 1962 or '63, these huge hand-held cameras came out. We had cameras on the sidelines. Videotape was just coming into use. The first time it was used was for half-time highlights. Then somebody got the idea, why don't we use it for replays during the game?

Then we got isolation cameras, a tight-action camera, and finally, a reverse-angle replay camera. Color came along in the '60s. The AFL switched to NBC in 1965, with a full complement of color cameras. The slow-motion disc came in.

There's been tremendous technological advances, a number of electronic toys to play with. We are much lighter, much more mobile. We get into places we never were.

From an announcer's standpoint, back in 1960 it was in the form of a radio broadcast. It was much more leisurely. Now, with replays, slow-motion, reverse-angle, updates from New York on other games, graphics, statistics . . . you have to be more disciplined and flexible—ready to go in any direction.

The fan doesn't realize it, but the telecasts are a hundred times better. You look at the old kinescopes of 1960 and there's no comparison. Back then, the rights to televise AFL games were about \$100,000 per team for the year. Now, it's close to \$1 million per team per game. It's big business, and there's more professionalism. Television has a great deal of influence with the NFL. The NFL is a business. When you have a major client that spends billions of dollars with you, obviously you consider its needs. TV is a giant source of income to the league.

Overexposure is always a concern. But right now in the NFL, I think it's just about right. I like the Sunday night games, the Monday Night

Games, the Thanksgiving Day games, and the Saturday games late in the season. The Thursday night games, though, are pushing that overexposure barrier.

I think sometimes television can be intrusive. You have to watch us. I don't believe announcers belong on the field, unless it's an all-star game. Then it's fine. I don't think athletes should be miked.

Coming off the radio days, when we announcers weren't recognized, we now are as much a part of the event as anybody. Fans in the stands react to the camera out of proportion to what they normally would do. We used to cover the circus. Now, TV is part of the circus.

I don't think we're doing enough reporting on things like drug abuse, injuries, or what happens to players when they leave the game. I think we should do more investigative work. But I don't think this belongs in the game coverage. I think it belongs in the pregame show or at halftime. We're not doing enough hard reporting. But we're doing more than we have in the past.

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'85 FOOTBALL

with Grant in charge. In 17 years with the team, ending in 1983, Grant's record was 151-87-5, with 11 division titles, 12 playoff berths, and three Super Bowl trips.

The Vikings were riddled with injuries in 1984. Only four players started every game and only 22 played every game. Minnesota lost its last six contests, allowing a total of 241 points. Their 13 losses were the most in club history.

A grueling training camp, a revolving door policy, and spot drug tests alienated many veterans from Steckel. "It seemed that Les wanted to take away some of the personality of the team, make everybody the same," former Vikes quarterback Steve Dils said. "As a result, he let some players go that cut the heart out of the team."

Three quarterbacks shared Minnesota's starting duties, the line was in constant turmoil because of injuries, and the Vikes receivers threatened nobody. Grant must pick up the pieces. He lost his battle to get Miami quarterback Bernie Kosar. But the Vikings had a good draft, adding linebackers Chris Doleman and Tim Meamber, center Kirk Lowdermilk, tackle Tim Long, and guard Mark MacDonald.

The Vikings have a trio of shifty running backs—Alfred Anderson, Ted Brown, and Darrin Nelson. They could use a trade for a receiver. And Grant must decide on a quarterback from between Tommy Kramer and Wade Wilson.

The defense, led by linebacker Scott Studwell (143 solo tackles), is not as bad as it looked last year. It will be up to Grant to restore the team's confidence and lift it out of the cellar.

Their strike-shortened 1982 season collapsed in a 3-6 record amid rumors of drug involvement by key players.

"Every bit of behavior that didn't appear natural," coach Bill Walsh said, "you'd relate it to drugs." But overconfidence also was a factor. "I felt erroneously," Walsh said, "that we had established ourselves as a great football team. But we were playing basically with 35 men. Injuries forced us to the lower end of our squad, and they really weren't up to it. [Now], this is a complete team. We can go to our 49th man."

The NFL's new 45-man roster rule might hurt the 49ers because they will be able to

"I think we've got a good formula now," Walsh said. "It'd be awful difficult to say it needs more calibrating."

San Francisco's offense was No. 2 in the NFL in yards and points. It revolves around Montana, who threw for 3,630 yards, 28 scores, and had only 10 interceptions. He became the highest-rated (92.6) quarterback in NFL history. Opponents and teammates marvel at his scrambling.

"He can make the spontaneous play as well as anybody who's ever played," Walsh said.

Still, Montana is his own worst critic. "Instead of taking the easy pass and throwing short," he said, "I sometimes automatically move out of the pocket and try to get some-



The 49ers' mighty offensive line can protect all of Montana.

NFC WEST How They'll Finish

1. 49ers
2. Rams
3. Falcons
4. Saints



San Francisco 49ers

CAN THE 49ERS avoid having a letdown as they did after winning Super Bowl XVI?

use fewer role players. But there is no doubt they have more talent than any team in the NFL. Owner Edward DeBartolo, with the heaviest payroll, has seen to that.

The 49ers should have little trouble defending their NFC West title because the Atlanta Falcons (4-12) and New Orleans Saints (7-9) are in disarray, and the Los Angeles Rams (10-6) must diversify their offense to become a serious threat. The 49ers are thinking about history . . . a dynasty.

"I think the record itself makes comparisons necessary," Montana said after winning his second Super Bowl MVP Award. "The fact 18-1's never been done before has to bring up the question. I'd take this team against anybody. Hopefully we're not finished yet."

thing. It obviously doesn't always work."

It works often enough. But Montana's scrambling is only one element of the attack. Running backs Wendell Tyler (1,262 yards) and Roger Craig (649) helped San Francisco improve from last in the NFL in rushing in 1982 to No. 3 last year. Craig led the team with 70 catches. Montana's possession receiver is Dwight Clark (52-880); his deep threat Freddie Solomon (40-737).

Free agent Tyler was considering a jump to the USFL. If the 49ers do not re-sign him, they would have to trade for a halfback. They drafted fullback Ricky Moore in the third round. In the first round, they took receiver Jerry Rice, who caught 103 passes for 1,682 yards and 27 TDs as a senior.

San Francisco's line is one of the best.



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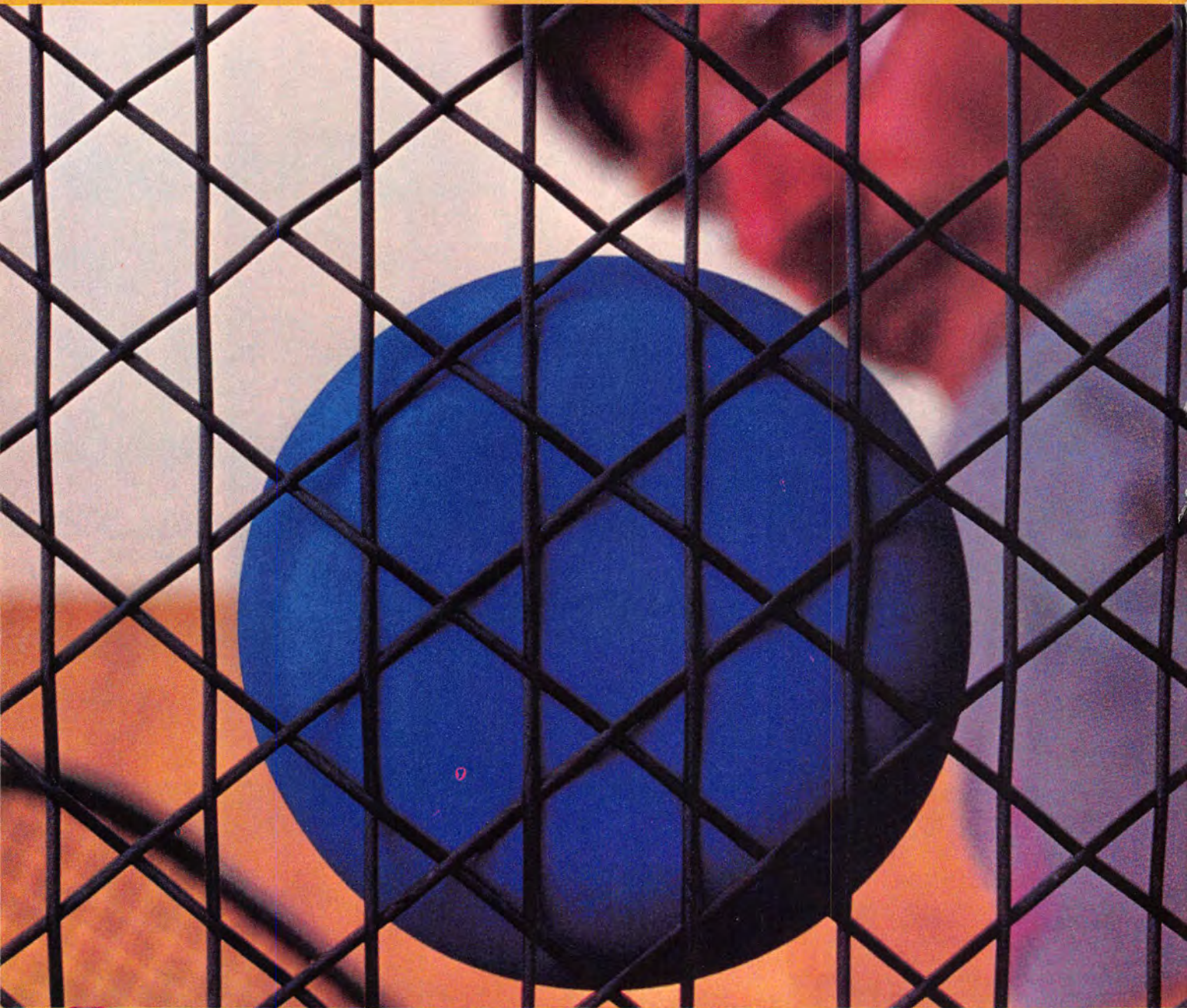


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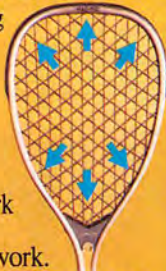
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'85 FOOTBALL

Four members have appeared in two Super Bowls: left guard John Ayers, center Fred Quillan, right guard Randy Cross, and right tackle Keith Fahnhorst. The left tackle is Bubba Paris. Russ Francis and Earl Cooper share tight end.

"It's a ball-control, high-percentage type offense," Montana said. The big thing for us is to keep the ball moving. It's just like a running attack except we hit the fullback on a swing and let him get five, six yards.

"There's 85, 90 passes in this offense," he added. "I couldn't name all 85 if I had to, and there's no way I can recall 'em when I'm out there. The biggest thing is we're spreading the ball around."

The 49ers defense also is talented and multifaceted. It is coordinated by George Seifert. San Francisco rotated nine linemen in the Super Bowl. The most effective were tackle Gary Johnson and ends Dwaine Board and Fred Dean.

The linebacker corps lost its leader, Jack Reynolds, to retirement. But Reynolds was on the field for only four plays in the Super Bowl. Mike Walter and Jim Fahnhorst will vie to replace him. The other 'backers are run-stoppers Dan Bunz and Riki Ellison, and Keena Turner, who plays every down and made his first Pro Bowl.

All four defensive backs made it, too—a first in the NFL—corners Ronnie Lott and Eric Wright, and safeties Carlton Williamson and Dwight Hicks.

"There's no question we're a better team [than in '82]," Walsh said. "We've improved it—not only through the draft but through the trades we've made. There isn't quite the college enthusiasm—it's more a professional approach."

"Hopefully," Montana said, "the players who were here in '81 can kinda be the leaders going into [this] season and not let that [letdown] happen to the rest. The only sad part about it is when you don't make it [the Super Bowl]. We expect it of ourselves and anything less is a letdown."

The 49ers could become the team of the '80s because they have no weaknesses. They demonstrated all their assets in a 38-16 thrashing of the Dolphins in last year's Super Bowl. And there is every reason to think they will make it to Super Bowl XX.



Los Angeles Rams

THE RAMS MADE the playoffs last year but will not be Super Bowl contenders until they

vary an offense that relies on running back Eric Dickerson. They found out in their 16-13 wild-card playoff loss to the Giants that one player cannot do it alone.

Dickerson ran for an NFL-record 2,105 yards for a two-year total of 3,913, but was rendered virtually ineffective against the Giants. But the Rams must get more from their passing game. They signed CFL war-horse Dieter Brock, 34, in the offseason. Brock threw for 34,830 yards and 210 touchdowns in 11 seasons. He'll compete with Jeff Kemp, who was 9-5 in 1984.

"He has as good an arm as I've ever seen," Robinson said of Brock.

Kemp was not very productive but very efficient. He threw for only 2,021 yards and 13 scores, with seven interceptions—the latter was low for NFL starters. The Rams top three wide receivers, Ron Brown, Henry Ellard, and Drew Hill, combined for 71 catches.

Kemp mostly used his wideouts as decoys to loosen defenses and give Dickerson running room. "We run the ball a lot," tight end David Hill said. "A lot of people play eight-, nine-man fronts against us. A couple of games we said we were going to throw the ball and we made some big plays."

"With the safeties walking up," Drew Hill said, "when we're one on one with the corners, a lot of times we can get the deep post."

Perhaps Brock can do a better job opening up the attack. Robinson took receiver Chuck Scott in the second round to add firepower.

The Rams allowed only 32 sacks, third-lowest in the NFL. Four linemen have been to the Pro Bowl: Dennis Harrah, Kent Hill, Jackie Slater, and Doug Smith.

"It is likely the strongest unit on our team," Robinson said, "and one of the strongest in the league."

The Rams defense is good against the run, but was 17th in sacks. "One of our highest priorities," Robinson said, "is to increase pressure on the quarterback."

Situational pass-rusher Gary Jeter has recovered from a back injury, but the Rams did not know whether a sciatic-nerve problem would permit Jack Youngblood, 35, to return for another year. The other end, Reggie Doss, and nose tackle Greg Meisner, are so-so.

The linebackers are underrated but respected. The group is led by Jim Collins, who had 142 solo tackles and is a threat to dislodge Harry Carson from a Pro Bowl spot. "Jim Collins' Pro Bowl for this year will be

'85 FOOTBALL

next year," Robinson said. "It's like your income tax return. It comes late."

Robinson drafted safety Jerry Gray in the first round, which gives him fine depth in the secondary. The group was disrupted last year by injuries to safeties Johnnie Johnson and Nolan Cromwell and cornerback Eric Harris.

Corners Gary Green and LeRoy Irvin play the deep pass well and stop big plays. But they must do a better job against intermediate routes. A trade for a dominant pass-rusher would help. But the defense is solid enough to project nine or 10 victories.



Atlanta Falcons

THE FALCONS ARE another matter. Key injuries and poor execution led to a 4-12 season for coach Dan Henning, who was absolved by owner Rankin Smith.

Atlanta lost William Andrews, who had accounted for 8,382 yards rushing and receiving in five years, to a serious training-camp knee injury. It lost receiver and return-specialist Billy (White Shoes) Johnson with

torn knee ligaments in the sixth game. And quarterback Steve Bartkowski missed five games with knee problems.

"When you lose people like that," Smith said, "you lose a lot of glue."

Bartkowski led the NFL in completion percentage (67.3), but threw only 11 scoring passes with 10 interceptions. His right knee has undergone major surgery twice and minor surgery three times. He was not helped by an injury-riddled offensive line that led the NFL in sacks allowed (67).

Bartkowski was a free agent in the off-season and contemplated his future. "I think about being able to function like a normal human being when I am out of the game," he said, "without having to use crutches." He added, "I have a real desire to play if I'm physically capable."

To bolster the line, the Falcons chose guard Bill Fralic in the first round. In 1980, when the Falcons went 12-4, all 11 offensive players started every game. That was hardly so in '84, when a lack of quality depth showed.

There was a question whether center Jeff Van Note would return at 39. Right guard John Scully is improving. Left tackle Mike Kenn has made five straight Pro Bowls. Left guard R. C. Thielemann is adequate. The other three line spots should be up for grabs.

Gerald Riggs stepped in for Andrews and was fourth in the NFL in rushing (1,486). There was talk Henning might use Andrews and Riggs in the same backfield and abandon his one-back offense. But it was not known whether Andrews will be ready to start the season.

The Falcons' starting receivers were productive: Stacy Bailey (67-1,138) and Alfred Jackson (52-731). But none of the tight ends was a receiving threat.

Defensively, the Falcons improved from 25th in 1983 to 15th. Henning hopes his No. 2 pick, defensive end Mike Gann, can bolster the pass-rush. The Falcons use a four-man front. Last year's No. 1 pick Rick Bryan started all 16 games at right tackle and was in on 125 tackles. He is expected to switch to left end.

Mike Pitts, the No. 1 pick in 1983, is expected to move from left end to left tackle.



Get rid of these handles,

Veteran Gary Burley will play right tackle. Don Smith, who had a team-high 6½ sacks, is the right end. The rest of the defense is nondescript—except for linebacker Buddy Curry, who had 140 total tackles.

Safety Tom Pridemore and cornerback James Britt suffer windburn often. None of the linebackers can cover. There isn't much depth. For the Falcons to reach .500, their offense must score a lot more points.



New Orleans Saints

THE SAINTS HAVE finished below .500 in 16 of 18 seasons, and last year's 7-9 record convinced owner John Mecom to begin negotiations to sell the franchise.

"This was supposed to be the year all the promises were guaranteed," Mecom said. "This is the most frustrating, disappointing, and disheartening season I've ever been through. And I've been through quite a few."

The Saints' young defense, which helped them to an 8-8 record in 1983, was tops in the NFL against passing. That's because teams found it so easy to run. Six teams ran for

more than 200 yards; the Saints lost all six games.

New Orleans' defense was on the field a lot because its offense was 24th rushing, 20th overall. Phillips traded running back George Rogers to Washington before the draft for a No. 1 pick and used it for linebacker Alvin Toles. Phillips is committed to Earl Campbell, his former meal ticket with the Oilers.

"John Riggins is 35," Campbell said. "I just got to play."

Quarterback Dave Wilson started the last two games and may win the job from deteriorating Richard Todd (11 TDs, 19 interceptions). But the Saints' problem is four mediocre receivers: Jeff Groth, Tyrone Young, Eugene Goodlow, and Lindsay Scott. What's more, none of their linemen started every game in 1984.

"I haven't seen anything like it in my 34 years in football," Phillips said.

"If somebody believed in spells," guard Louis Oubre said, "you'd have to think somebody put a spell on us. But I guess it's luck—all of it bad."

After a 3-4 start, Phillips went back to

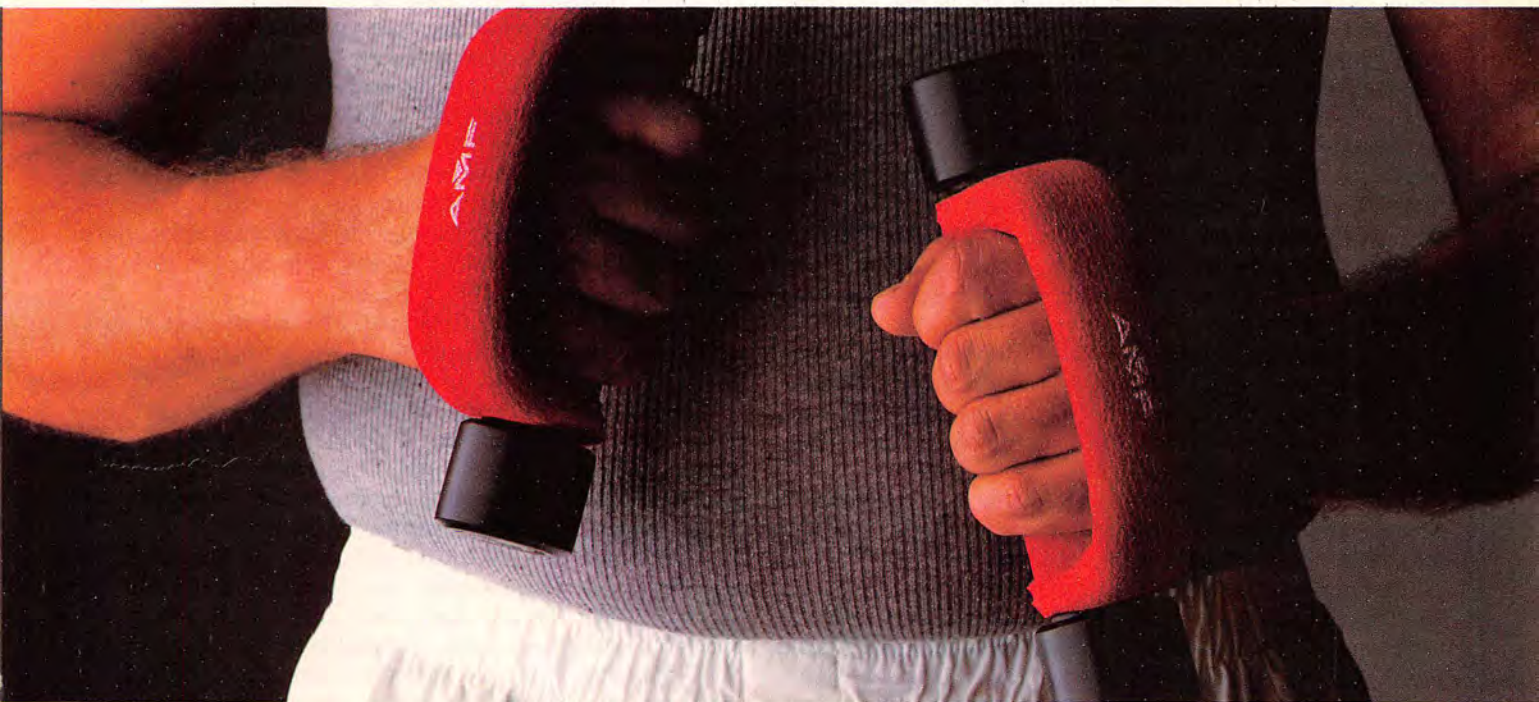
basics, cutting the number of his team's offensive plays in half. That made the Saints more predictable. And the reserves did not play as well as injured Dave Lafary (leg), Oubre (foot), Brad Edelman (knee), Joel Hilgenberg (elbow), and Stan Brock (knee).

Phillips did not use injuries as an excuse. "I feel I let you all down," he said, "because I led you to believe we were going to do real good. I feel like it's my fault—nobody else but me."

The Saints started only 19 drives in enemy territory because the defense did not produce many turnovers. That unit features two quality players: left end Bruce Clark (11 sacks) and Pro Bowl left linebacker Rickey Jackson. Rookie punter Brian Hansen (43.8-yard average) also made the Pro Bowl.

The Saints are not as good as Phillips thinks and will struggle to win five games. ■

Contributing writers KENT PULLIAM and JIM SMITH were each on target with two of three division winners last year, although Kent is still explaining why he picked the Broncos for last place. Each writer has done several football pieces for I.S.



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Ara's Top 20

Auburn's road to the top will be paved with talent, leadership, coaching, and some walkover opponents

By Ara Parseghian

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A COLLEGE FOOTBALL team to make the top 20? Or more important, what does it take to be No. 1?

To even be considered for the top 20, the team must first be a sound, solid team, one that has the key personnel, experience, leadership, coaching, desire, and a winning tradition. But it takes more than that.

More often than not, a key element is a favorable schedule. And by that, I don't mean just a series of lopsided games against weak teams. Sometimes it can be a mixture of easier, or less fortunate, teams and some genuinely tough ones. But the tough ones must be faced at opportune times on the schedule. You can't play a whole string of games against powerhouse teams and survive.

Much has been made of last season's No. 1 team, Brigham Young, an unlikely national champion and the only major team to finish undefeated. There is no question that BYU, playing in the Western Athletic Conference, did not face many top teams. But that schedule did include an early game against Pittsburgh, a team selected for the top 20 (not only by me but by dozens of other forecasters). And in the WAC, Brigham Young did play and defeat Air Force, a team that again made it to a bowl game.

Many thought the Cougars should forego the Holiday Bowl (where the champion of the WAC is the host) in favor of a "major" bowl and a better chance to prove its right to be No. 1. To the credit of BYU and veteran coach LaVell Edwards, the Cougars lived up to the WAC commitment and played Michigan in San Diego.

The Wolverines, only 6-5 going into the game, might not have been the best, but surely playing and defeating a team that usually is a top contender in the Big 10 can't be discounted.

That favorable schedule, forced upon BYU because it played in the WAC, surely helped the Cougars, but it didn't detract from one obvious fact: BYU was a solid football team. In order to make it to the top 20, or to No. 1, a team must be sound. It must be well-balanced. It must have the ability to stop any opponent, and also the skills to score.

In Brigham Young's case, the emphasis was on the passing game, a phase of play that has been developed into an art by Edwards. Robbie Bosco, the latest in a long line of BYU passing quarterbacks, and receiving stars Glen Kozlowski and Kelly Smith are obviously skilled players. But don't forget that when it counted, Brigham Young also had an excellent defense, anchored by lineman Jim Herrmann, one of an exceptional group of seniors on the team.

Edwards will miss that defense this season, but has to be happy that Bosco, Kozlowski, and Smith all return.

Brigham Young is the ninth different college football champion in the last 10 years, a period that coincides with my absence from the sidelines as a coach. Only Alabama under the late Paul (Bear) Bryant was able to become No. 1 twice, topping the Associated Press poll for the 1978 and 1979 seasons.

The Crimson Tide fell out of the top 20 last season, a losing year in Tuscaloosa, but 'Bama had plenty of company. Teams such as Pittsburgh, Michigan, Penn State, Notre Dame, Clemson, Texas, and Georgia, were all major disappointments for their fans. And for some, the lackluster seasons may continue.

In the 10 seasons since I left coaching at Notre Dame, there have been 31 different teams in the AP top 10 at season's end [see chart in "Numbers" section, page 78].

Nebraska, a team I picked for No. 1 last year, has been in the top 10 in eight of the 10 seasons. Oklahoma made it to the top 10 seven times, usually in a higher position than the Cornhuskers, their rivals in the Big 8 Conference. The Sooners were No. 1 in 1975, but Nebraska's best finish was No. 2 in 1983.

Alabama, Michigan, Penn State, and Pitt each made the top 10 six times, and all except Michigan finished No. 1 sometime in the 10 years.

The chart shows another not-so-pleasant (for an ex-coach) trend. In that period, Clemson, Southern Methodist, Florida, Illinois, Miami, and Southern California made it to the top 10, and all are, have been, or are going to be on NCAA probation. The AP poll does not preclude a team on probation from making the top 20.

Oklahoma does have much to recommend it as the No. 1 team, but again citing the schedule-maker, the Sooners could have some disappointments. Not only must coach Barry Switzer's team play each of its seven Big 8 rivals—including perennial pick Nebraska, No. 7 Oklahoma State, and Missouri, a team that could surprise under new coach Woody Widenhofer—but the Sooners' nonconference schedule is also tough.

Oklahoma must play Texas, as usual, and also Southern Methodist, probably the powerhouse of the Southwest Conference. Also on the schedule are Miami, under former Oklahoma State rival Jimmy Johnson, and Minnesota, directed by the wily Lou Holtz.

Auburn, another team playing in a conference loaded with would-be No. 1 rivals, is my choice as No. 1. Coach Pat Dye's team didn't live up to its billing last season, partly because of some key injuries,



particularly to running star Bo Jackson, but also because of a horrendous schedule.

This time, the schedule is easier. The Tigers do play tough Florida State, but at home, and they have another tough one against surprising Georgia Tech, a team that defeated both Alabama and rival Georgia last year. The others are Southwestern Louisiana and Mississippi Southern.

Auburn returns 16 starters from last year's 9-4 team, 10 of them on offense, plus two kicking specialists. Of particular significance is the presence of the entire backfield, quarterback Pat Washington, fullback Tommy Agee, halfback Brent Fullwood, and the incomparable Jackson, who has averaged 6.8 yards a running play in his three years. And Auburn's switch to the I-formation can only help the talented Jackson.

The Tigers have to be wary because there are about a half-dozen rivals in the Southeastern Conference who figure to be contenders,

pounds) tailback with the 4.45 speed in the 40-yard dash. And Ohio State has 13 starters back to surround its Heisman Trophy candidate.

Like Oklahoma and Auburn, Ohio State could have a tough time winning the conference. Iowa has quarterback Chuck Long and a potent offensive group back for another year under coach Hayden Fry, and Illinois, although on probation, could be a solid contender on the wings of Mike White's usual passing game.

Michigan is difficult to overlook. Coach Bo Schembechler didn't enjoy his 6-6 record last season, and he is determined to get the Wolverines back to the top soon. Purdue also is an excellent team after a 7-5 season and a trip to the Peach Bowl.

No Big 10 team has won the No. 1 ranking in the last 10 years. In fact, Ohio State (1968) is the only Big 10 team to be No. 1 in the last 30 seasons. One reason for this has been the lack of success in the Rose Bowl. Michigan in 1981 (following the 1980 season) has been the only Big 10 Rose Bowl winner since 1974 (Ohio State).

including Florida. The Gators were the top team last year, although the conference took the title away in late May. They had been barred from all bowl games after the 1984 season.

Coach Galen Hall has a perfect 8-0 record since taking over the probation-locked program, and his Gators will again be tough. Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana State, Kentucky, and Tennessee also figure to win more than a few games.

Conference teams can have a tough time finishing No. 1 in the nation, because it is imperative that they win the conference and gain a bowl bid in order to be considered for No. 1. I don't think it is possible for a team to be No. 1, or probably even in the top 10, without playing in a bowl game. That was one reason Notre Dame some 16 years ago reversed its long-standing opposition to postseason play.

Conference teams do have somewhat of a handicap because they first must win a league title and then shoot for No. 1 by winning a bowl game. But there also is a benefit to winning a conference title. The winner or a top team in the Big 10, Pac-10, Big 8, Southeastern, and Southwest Conferences claim a spot in a major bowl. And teams that have won major bowls have been awarded nine of the last 10 national championships. Brigham Young last year was the obvious exception.

Oklahoma, picked for No. 2, has the same conference problem, plus the tougher non-conference slate.

Not so in Columbus, Ohio, where coach Earle Bruce's team should be No. 3. The Buckeyes must face eight Big 10 rivals, but the nonconference alignment of Pittsburgh, Colorado, and Washington State is much easier.

Ohio State has one of the top players in the nation in Keith Byars, the big (6'2", 235

'85 FOOTBALL



Jackson is one of Auburn's 16 returning starters.

Rose Bowl success by Pac-10 schools hasn't helped them in the battle for No. 1, either. The best in the last 10 years was the No. 1 (in the UPI coaches poll) by Southern California after the 1978 season, when Alabama was the AP winner.

Two teams on probation, Florida and Southern Methodist, are ranked Nos. 4 and 5. Because of probation, it will be almost impossible for either to become No. 1 because they will be denied bowl invitations.

Florida has 13 starters returning and apparently likes the idea of dominating the SEC again. At Southern Methodist, coach Bobby Collins is coming off a 10-2 year and a victory over Notre Dame in the Aloha Bowl.

There is other competition in the Southwest this year. Houston has 14 starters back and Arkansas has 16. The Razorbacks were 7-4-1 in a solid year under new coach Ken Hatfield.

In the second five, I have ranked Brigham Young, although the Cougars' schedule is tougher; Iowa, a team that has most of its offense back but is usually solid on defense; No. 8 Nebraska, despite the presence of only four starters from last year; No. 9 Washington, because coach Don James is such a proven winner against all kinds of schedules; and No. 10, my one-time nemesis, Southern California, which seems to have gotten around another corner in coach Ted Tollner's scheme of things.

In the Pac-10, Southern California finished 9-3, as did UCLA, but that was a couple of steps behind Washington (11-1). The Huskies get an early chance to start some No. 1 talk by playing Brigham Young early in the year. The Cougars also play UCLA.

In the Atlantic Coast Conference, Maryland figures to be a strong contender, but whoever arranged the schedule surely is no friend of coach Bobby Ross. After starting out with Penn State, Boston College, West Virginia, and Michigan in that order, the Terps have to finish with North Carolina, Miami (Fla.), Clemson, and Virginia.

Virginia? The Cavaliers played in their first-ever bowl game last year and finished 8-2-2 under the direction of George Welsh, one of the solid coaches in the nation. At Georgia Tech, Bill Curry seems to have the Yellow Jackets on track. They not only finished 6-4-1 for their best record since 1978, but whipped SEC powers Alabama and rival Georgia to boot.

The ACC, like the other conferences, will be hotly contested, and any one of a half-dozen teams might win it.

What about the independent teams? In the last 10 seasons, four of them have won the national title, thus taking the play away from most of the conference champs.

Last year, Boston College was the top-ranked independent team (No. 5), South Carolina was No. 11, and Florida State No. 17, while Notre Dame, Penn State, Miami, and Pittsburgh were out of the postseason top 20.

This season, I would guess that Notre Dame will again be the top preseason selection among the independents. But coach Gerry Faust's teams have disappointed their followers for the last few years. The Irish loss to SMU in the Aloha Bowl gave the team a 7-5 final record, a winning result but hardly up to expectations of the lively N.D. fans.

Penn State, also a disappointing team last season, figures to rebound, and so does Pitt, but coach Joe Morrison has built a solid base at South Carolina, and Florida State under Bobby Bowden will again be strong.

Candidates for the Heisman Trophy include Jackson of Auburn, Byars of Ohio State, Allen Pinkett of Notre Dame, Dalton Hilliard of Louisiana State, and Chuck Long of Iowa. But they will be hard-pressed to match the 1984 heroics of Doug Flutie of Boston College.

The top 20 teams:

1 AUBURN

BO JACKSON, THE HEISMAN TROPHY HOPEFUL, FIGURES to break one of the oldest SEC records, the 6.3-yards-per-rush figure set by Alabama's Bobby Morrow from 1950 to '52. Jackson gets plenty of help from Agee, Washington, and Fullwood, one of the best backfields anywhere. Coach Pat Dye's team did lose to rival Alabama last year, but in the 12th game of the season, when the Tigers were a tired team. The 13th game (and ninth victory) was in the Liberty Bowl against Arkansas.

2 OKLAHOMA

DEFENSE COULD BE THE NAME OF THE GAME IN Norman this year. Led by All-America nose guard Tony Casillas, the Sooners should dominate their opponents. Defensive end Kevin Murphy is back after a redshirt year, and he will be joined by sophomore linebacker Brian Bosworth, defensive newcomer of the year in the Big 8. The only concern is at cornerback. Quarterback Troy Aikman, a sophomore who started one game last year, seems to have found the passing range, particularly to tight end Keith Jackson. Spencer Tillman, who rushed for 1,047 yards as a freshman but was injured part of last year, surely will help coach Switzer's Wishbone attack. Oklahoma lost twice and was tied once last year after three consecutive seasons of four losses.



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3 OHIO STATE

ALTHOUGH COACH EARLE BRUCE HAS BYARS AT tailback, he might have a quarterback problem. The probable starter is Jim Karsatos, and he will be throwing to star wide receiver Cris Carter. Linebacker Chris Spielman should again be tough, and the Buckeyes have an excellent punter in quarterback Tom Tupa. The Buckeyes' nonconference schedule is easier than most, but two tough road games in the Big 10 are at Illinois and Michigan.

4 FLORIDA

AFTER WHAT SEEMED LIKE A ZILLION YEARS TO fans of the Florida football team, the "Year of the Gator" finally arrived in 1984—and under unlikely circumstances: a change of coaches and NCAA probation after a 1-1-1 start. The powerful "Great Wall of Florida" offensive line that helped young quarterback Kerwin Bell so much has departed, except for Jeff Zimmerman. Running backs John L. Williams and Neal Anderson join Bell in the backfield. Linebacker Alonzo Johnson is the defensive leader. The schedule does feature eight teams that went to bowl games last year, but if coach Hall can rebuild both the offensive and defensive lines, there will be plenty of bite in the Gators.



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GIL BRANDT: Passing Is College Football's Exciting Equalizer

LAST FALL, AFTER having watched both Tennessee and Florida each account for more than 500 yards total offense one Saturday afternoon, I was seated in the Knoxville airport, awaiting the call for my flight home. As I waited, I watched the Ohio State-Illinois game on a TV set in the terminal. It developed quickly into the same kind of offensive explosion I'd seen firsthand just hours earlier. So fascinating was the game that I missed my plane.

College football is more exciting than ever. And because of it, fan interest for the past two or three years has been at a very high level. It is the passing game that is responsible for that climb in ticket sales, television ratings, and fan appreciation.

The development of the passing game on the college level in the last few years has been phenomenal. You look at the teams that have been in contention for the national championship, and you know right away they're going to be teams with great passing attacks. In addition to making a team a super power, the passing game can also help an underdog accomplish things it could never do with a three-rushing-attempts-and-punt kind of offense. Look at Kansas last year, for instance: Picked to finish last in the Big 8, it wound up defeating the University of Oklahoma. Why? Because it has the ability to throw the football. Ohio State, once a grind-it-out offensive team, had three players catch more than 40 passes last season. On the Division I-AA level, Montana State won just one game in 1983, but won the national title a year later because it had a great

passer in sophomore Kelly Bradley.

I honestly believe that Boston College would not have had a winning season last year had it not been for the big plays of Doug Flutie. But because of his ability to throw the ball and come up with the big plays, they were an exciting, winning team.

And the fans love that. You can go to a college game today and sit in the stands with a blindfold on, and tell when a pass has been completed. It just generates a great deal more excitement. And the college coaches know that and are selling their product with it.

It is amazing what today's college quarterbacks are accomplishing. One of my all-time favorite quarterbacks was Bob Waterfield, when he was at UCLA. In his day he was considered head and shoulders above all other college passers. He set all kinds of records and won all kinds of awards—yet he never completed more than 40% of his passes in a single season. Today, you have to hit on something like 60% to be a member of the elite group. At Brigham Young last year, Robbie Bosco completed 305 passes. There was a time, not that many years ago, when college quarterbacks didn't even attempt that many in their careers.

And, of course, the more quarterbacks throw, the more the receivers are going to be in the spotlight. Up until the '60s, a receiver had a pretty good shot at leading the nation if he caught 40 or so passes. Today, running backs are catching nearly that many. The fact that Illinois wide receiver David Williams caught 101 passes last season is incredible. But someone's going to come along and improve on that if the cycle continues.

Eventually, the defenses will catch up and find new ways to slow down the passing to some degree. Things like this have always gone in

cycles. But—mark my word—just as soon as someone figures a way to shut down the passing game, the offensive coaches are going to find new ways to get it going again.

One of the trends you're seeing now is the added use of the running backs in the passing game. To qualify as a superstar back in college today, you have to be able to catch the ball just about as well as you run with it. Recognizing the importance of the back in the passing attack, coaches are seeing to it that those backs are spending far more time catching the ball in practice. At Ohio State, for instance, Keith Byars will catch 25 balls a day. That has provided a new dimension to the OSU attack.

It all started in 1979, when you suddenly saw teams like Wake Forest, Indiana, Brigham Young, and Tulane invited to bowl games. Their passing attacks were not only appealing to the fans, but served as a great equalizer. A Wake Forest, for instance, probably didn't have the overall quality of teams like Georgia and Auburn, but they beat them—with the passing game. Big 10 coaches grew weary of going out to the Rose Bowl and not being successful running the ball, so they began to throw. And when they saw what they could do, they began putting more emphasis on the pass.

You'll have a hard time today finding a coach who will insist he can win a conference title without an outstanding passing game.

And it is an established fact that a team with a superior passing game will draw the fans to the stadium. Which is why college football is enjoying greater popularity than ever.

—GIL BRANDT is vice president in charge of personnel development for the Dallas Cowboys.

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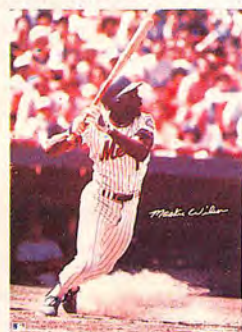
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'85 FOOTBALL

5 SOUTHERN METHODIST

LAST YEAR THE PONY EXPRESS TANDEM OF REGGIE Dupard and Jeff Atkins teamed for 1,877 yards and 22 touchdowns, and helped the Mustangs to their fourth consecutive 10-victory campaign. Quarterback Don King, excellent last season as the replacement for Lance McIlhenny, will have six other senior starters in his offensive unit, and there also are seven starters returning on defense. Except for a visit to Oklahoma, the non-Southwest Conference schedule isn't especially tough.

6 BRIGHAM YOUNG

FEW RATE COACH EDWARDS' 1985 TEAM THIS HIGH, because the schedule is tougher—both Washington and UCLA of the Pac-10—but teams that play the Cougars had better be ready on pass defense. Against Michigan in the Holiday Bowl, BYU proved it could dish out the running game, too. Bosco is back and so are his top receivers, Kozlowski (55 regular-season catches for 879 yards and 11 scores) and halfback Smith (46 catches for 598 yards and six scores). Junior fullback Lakei Heimuli gained more than 800 yards and scored 10 times last year. Bosco is another in a long line of BYU passing stars who have plagued opponents in the 13 years of

Edwards' tenure (118 victories, 37 losses, and one tie). The Cougars have been to seven straight Holiday Bowls as WAC champion.

7 IOWA

SOME THOUGHT CHUCK LONG WOULD CHOOSE PRO football because his class had graduated, but the ace quarterback decided to give the Hawkeyes another head start in the Big 10. Most of his teammates on the defensive side have departed, but if rusher Ronnie Harmon comes back, the offense should be potent. Key receivers Bill Happel and Robert Smith are back, and linebacker Larry Station gives coach Fry an anchor for a rebuilt defense. Defensive back Devon Mitchell also returns, and the schedule does favor the Hawkeyes. Not only is the nonconference schedule of Drake, Iowa State, and Northern Illinois relatively easy, but the tough conference games come late in the year, when the defense should be better.

8 NEBRASKA

WHEN COACH TOM OSBORNE HAS ONLY FOUR starters back, two each on offense and defense, watch out. The Huskers great depth, always a long suit, will come into play.

BRANDT: The NFL Will Strike a Mother Lode of Talent in '86

A FEW YEARS BACK, YOU'LL REMEMBER, the Los Angeles Rams and the Seattle Seahawks suffered through bad seasons, missed the playoffs, and were therefore eligible to make relatively early selections in the National Football League's annual college player draft. The Rams drafted Eric Dickerson of SMU and the Seahawks picked Curt Warner of Penn State. Simply by adding the talents of those two running backs to their respective rosters, the Rams and Seahawks enabled themselves to return to the playoff picture.

Such is the impact a skill position player can have on a team. There will be a number of college seniors in the skill positions—running back, quarterback, wide receiver—this fall who could well provide a troubled NFL team with the same kind of turnaround. Next spring's draft, in fact, is one scouts have been looking forward to for some time. It will have more skill players than any we've had in the last 10 years. There will be a dozen or so star-quality running backs, some great quarterbacks, and outstanding wide receivers.

It goes without saying that a team that has the opportunity to draft early and uses that selection wisely can improve itself to a point where it can expect to go from being a nonplayoff team to one you'll see in a contending position.

There's no question that this year will feature a bumper crop of really outstanding running backs. I'm not going to say there's another Eric Dickerson, another player who is going to come into the league and be able to rush for 2,000 yards, but there are seniors who have a legitimate chance to move into starting positions as rookies.

There's Bo Jackson at Auburn, Rueben Mayes at Washington State, Keith Byars at Ohio State, and Kenny Davis of TCU for openers. All but Jackson, who was injured, rushed for more than 1,500 yards as juniors. And they're excellent receivers as well—which is very important today.

Those are the players who have received a great deal of publicity already and are likely to go early in the draft. But there are a number of others who could be in the spotlight before the college season is over. Iowa's Ronnie Harmon, who suffered a broken leg in his junior year, could be outstanding this year. Thomas Rooks of Illinois and Reggie Dupard of SMU are topnotch backs, as are John L. Williams and Neal Anderson of Florida. Darryl Clack of Arizona State has been a regular since his freshman year, and Kerry Porter of Washington State is a guy who rushed for 1,000 yards in '83 but was bothered with injuries last year. Allen Pinkett of Notre Dame is another four-year starter and Dalton Hilliard and Gary James of LSU are game-breaking type players.

All of these backs are first-round prospects on just about any list you want to check.

One of the most interesting things about this year's quarterback crop is that three of the best are in the Big 10. Once known as a running conference, it now has Chuck Long of Iowa, who is a definite first-round selection. Then there's Jack Trudeau, a four-year starter at Illinois, and Jim Everett of Purdue. Then you have Robbie Bosco of Brigham Young, a sensational player who led his team to a national championship last year. Tony Robinson, a black quarterback at Tennessee, is a young man with great potential. And there's Willie

Totten, who did such a great job at Mississippi Valley last year.

What's happening is that teams are throwing the ball so much more today that the young quarterbacks coming into the pros are far ahead of what a rookie used to be. They've learned to read defenses, they've thrown out of multiple set offenses, and have a solid overall knowledge of the passing game. For those reasons, they no longer have to wait that three, four, or five years to develop to a point where they can play in the NFL. Each of the players mentioned, in fact, will probably challenge for a starting job on whatever team drafts him.

They're coming out of college with completion averages of 60% or better and aren't throwing a lot of interceptions. Their statistics are unbelievable.

And there are people for them to throw to. Among the list of wide receivers who will be playing in their senior years are several who have all the ingredients necessary for success: speed, quickness, hands, and acceleration.

David Williams of Illinois, who caught 101 passes last year, has a definite chance of starting in the NFL this time next year. Tim Magee of Tennessee is a world-class sprinter with great hands. Mike Sherrard of UCLA is outstanding and you've got people like Vince Warren of San Diego State, Hassan Jones of Florida State, and Lou Barnes of Oregon—all with incredible speed.

Such performers will, no doubt, make the 1985 college football season an outstanding one. And, once their eligibility is completed, they will make the NFL draft more exciting than it has been in a decade.

—G.B.

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'85 FOOTBALL



Pinkett is seeking the Heisman at Notre Dame.

Junior I-back Doug Dubose is a budding star, and quarterback Travis Turner should be solid. Osborne himself is coming off coronary bypass surgery, but after achieving a 34-4 record in the last three years, he surely has the toughness to overcome that. Except for an early game against Illinois and the usual Big 8 battles, the schedule isn't that rugged. After eight top 10 appearances in the last 10 years, it is obvious the Huskers got there the old-fashioned way. They earned it.

9 WASHINGTON

EXCEPT FOR A LOSS TO PAC-10 RIVAL SOUTHERN California, the Huskies would have been No. 1 last year. There is some major rebuilding to do, but quarterback Hugh Millen, 8-0 as a starter, is a good start. Chris Chandler, a youngster with ability, can challenge. Coach James boasts a 58-14 record for the last six years, with an 8-4 worst season. There are four offensive and five defensive regulars returning from last year's 11-1 team. The Huskies open with Oklahoma State, then visit BYU and Houston before getting into the Pac-10 portion of the schedule.

10 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

THE TROJANS COMPLETED SPRING PRACTICE with quarterback Sean Salisbury getting a stiff challenge from sophomore Kevin McLean. Coach Tollner also has a battle at the key USC tailback spot. Fred Crutcher is listed as No. 1, but Ryan Knight, Steve Webster, Zeph Lee, and newcomer Aaron Emanuel are giving him a fight. Five contenders at tailback is a problem I could live with. But the Trojans have to improve the defense after losing two top linebackers.

11 NOTRE DAME

THE IRISH FINALLY WON SOME GAMES IN November after suffering through a sluggish October and consecutive losses to Miami, Air Force, and South Carolina. Coach Faust has the remarkable halfback Allen Pinkett (3,031 yards in three seasons), junior quarterback Steve Beuerlein, who is coming back from shoulder surgery, and linemen starters Mike Perrino, Tim Scannell, and Tom Doerger. The key defenders back are linebacker Mike Larkin, tackle Wally Kleine, and linebackers Tony Furjanic and Robert Banks. Although the defensive secondary is pretty much intact, it was not a strong point last year. The Irish schedule starts at Michigan and ends at Miami, but in between are some other tough ones, in Purdue, Michigan State, Air Force (a three-years-in-a-row winner over the Irish), Southern California (always a tough foe for the Irish), Penn State, and Louisiana State—not the easiest of times for the likable Faust, in the fifth year of an announced five-year contract.

12 ARKANSAS

COACH HATFIELD HAS 16 STARTERS BACK FOR his second year, and a better grasp of the Southwest Conference. The Razorbacks will have a new quarterback, but sophomore Greg Thomas had some great spring workouts in Hatfield's Flexbone attack. The Razorbacks have an excellent split end in junior James Shibest. Junior fullbacks Marshall Foreman and Derrick Thomas combined for some solid yardage last year. Three of the top guards graduated, but sophomore Chris Bequette should handle one spot and John Stitten the other, if he gets over a knee problem.

13 FLORIDA STATE

COACH BOBBY BOWDEN HAD SOME OFFSEASON problems and dropped flashy halfback Roosevelt Snipes from scholarship, but Snipes may return as a walk-on. Quarterbacks Eric Thomas and Kirk Coker are back. Bowden, year in and year out, gets his team into the top 20, and the Seminoles of 1985 should be no exception.

14 ILLINOIS

COACH MIKE WHITE'S TEAM WAS NOT ONE OF the Big 10's five bowl losers last year. The Illini are on probation and didn't get a bid. Jack Trudeau, the 65% passer who threw for 2,724 yards last year, again will be running the team, and his top receiver, David Williams (101 catches for 1,278 yards), also returns. Ditto for the top rusher, Thomas Rooks, who averaged more than 100 yards a game. The Illini return some 35 players of the top 44.

15 UCLA

COACH TERRY DONAHUE, YEAR AFTER YEAR, keeps his Bruins in contention in the Pac-10. Last season he matched the 9-3 mark of crosstown rival Southern Cal, and then watched his team beat Miami's Hurricanes in the Fiesta Bowl before Southern Cal whipped Ohio State in Pasadena. This time, Donahue wants his team to play its final game at home, on Rose Bowl turf. Donahue must replace quarterback Steve Bono, but Mike Sherrard will be back at split end, and Tommy Taylor will anchor the defense as a linebacker.

16 ALABAMA

AFTER LAST SEASON'S PROBLEMS IN TUSCALOOSA, not many have picked the Tide to rebound. But the winning tradition is there, and coach Ray Perkins has seven offensive starters and nine defensive returnees from that "learning" year. In addition to quarterback Mike Shula (son of Miami Dolphins coach Don), the Tide has fullback Craig Turner, who is called "Touchdown." Center Wes Neighbors comes from a strong Alabama background. His father was All-American Billy Neighbors. The Tide plays Texas A. & M., Penn State, Cincinnati, Memphis State, and Southern Mississippi in addition to a six-game SEC slate.

17 GEORGIA

COACH VINCE DOOLEY PLAYED MANY UNDERCLASSMEN last season and still came up with a 7-4-1 team. The eight offensive starters (six on defense, too) should give the Dawgs the strength to contend in the SEC. Lars Tate and Cleveland Gary may not be Herschel Walkers, but the sophomore running backs are good ones. Key losses included long-range placekicker Kevin Butler and punter Chip Andrews.

18 HOUSTON

VETERAN COACH BILL YEOMAN RETURNS 14 starters, and the Cougars were a tough team last year, in the Southwest Conference race until the final weekend.

19 MARYLAND

COACH ROSS HAS THE TALENT TO WIN IN THE ACC, but the schedule precludes a top 10 finish. He has 17 starters back, but must replace Frank Reich at quarterback. Stan Gelbaugh is the likely replacement, but he will be hard-pressed to do better than last year's great offensive showing of 446.6 offensive yards and 32 points a game.

20 MICHIGAN

I KNOW THE WOLVERINES FINISHED 6-6 A year ago, and that coach Schembechler admits he has a quarterback problem, but you never, never count Michigan out of Big 10 contention. The Wolverines do play both Notre Dame and Maryland, but both will visit Ann Arbor, where visitors have had their share of troubles in Bo's great winning years. The man has 186 coaching victories, tops among active coaches.

Other contenders, in case the top 20 falters as it did a year ago, include, alphabetically: Arizona, Arizona State, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Miami, Missouri, Penn State, Purdue, Oklahoma State, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. ■

ARA PARSEGHIAN, now a color analyst for CBS-TV, coached Notre Dame to three national titles. Ara didn't consider BYU even a sleeper last year, which taught him not to underrate the passing game.

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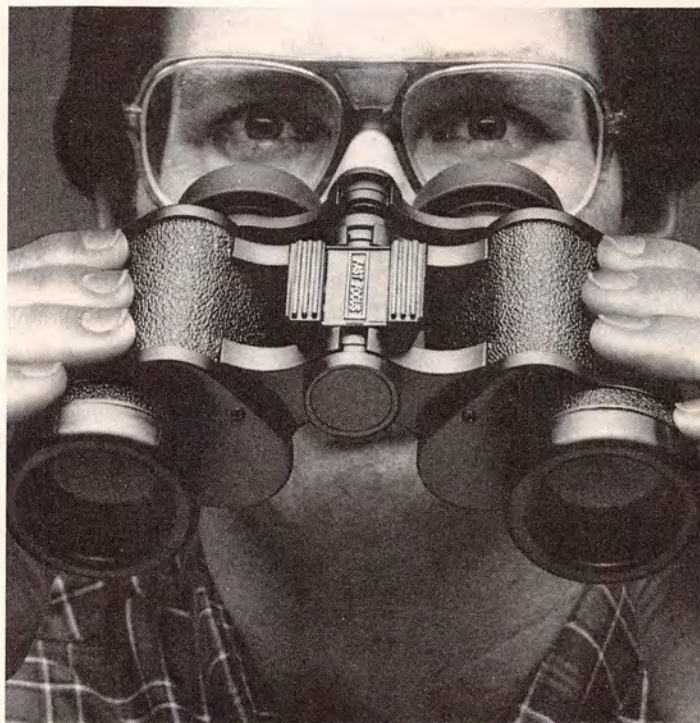
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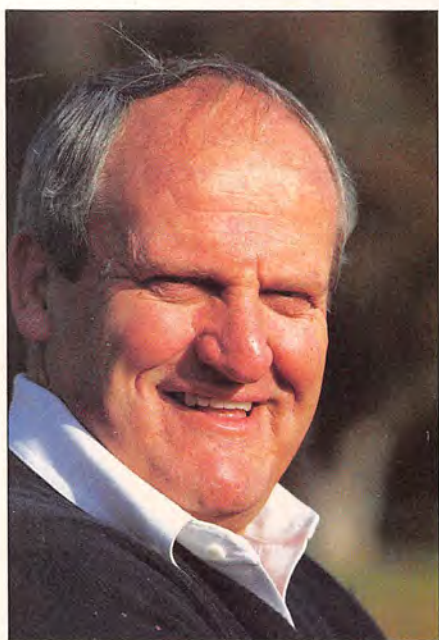


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Proving It in Provo

Last year QB Robbie Bosco and his Cougars won everything but respect. This year they can win that, too



Coach Edwards has a .760 winning mark at BYU, but wasn't noticed until his team became a national champ.

By HANK NUWER

BRIGHAM YOUNG QUARTERBACK coach Mike Holmgren frowned as his office phone rang last autumn in the middle of a team meeting. His wife, Kathy, was on the horn. She had to leave to take care of an emergency, but had no one available to watch Gretchen, the family's spunky three-year-old.

"I've got to be here a bit longer," Mike told her, "but don't worry. I'll handle it."

Holmgren, who frequently invites his football players to dinner at his house, sent quarterback Robbie Bosco to take charge of little Gretchen, while Holmgren took a half-hour to complete the business at hand.

Holmgren, a brawny guy with a chest that looks armor-plated, chortles heartily when he tells you what he found upon arriving home. "I walked in to see a potential Heisman Trophy winner, the quarterback of the national champions, trying to feed my little daughter yogurt," he recalls. "He's not getting an inch. I mean he can't even budge her. He's pleading with her to eat the stuff, and she's saying, 'No, Robbie. No.' 'This better not get out,' I told him. If the pros find out what kind of leader you are, you're finished!"

A BUDDING CAREER AS A DAY-care instructor is doubtless now out the window for 22-year-old Robbie Bosco, but, fortunately, he has other things to console him. Although lacking the off-field sophistication and on-field mobility of a scrambler such as his predecessor, Steve Young, Bosco nonetheless capitalizes on his own gifts: a live arm, unflinching

poise, and determination the late Vince Lombardi would have cheered. The slender but gritty quarterback proved he could play hurt, shaking off back, groin, and leg miseries last year. Playing in tiny Provo, a no-name hamlet landlocked in the heart of Utah's mountainous Mormon country, Bosco never had a prayer to snatch the Heisman from Doug Flutie, thanks to the devotion of the Eastern press to the Boston College-turned-New Jersey Generals star. Nonetheless, Bosco found sweet consolation in his first full season on the job by taking his team to the most bitterly disputed national championship ever—an accomplishment that \$40 million-man Steve Young and other past "Y" quarterbacking luminaries never achieved.

If, like the Heisman committee, you were too busy following Master Flutie to notice Robbie Bosco, here are some of the heroics the BYU junior accomplished in 1984:

- He guided BYU to a 13-0 campaign, including a gimp-legged MVP performance in the 24-17 Holiday Bowl mismatch against Michigan. As a result, BYU edged runner-up Washington (11-1) for both AP and UPI national championship honors.

- He led all college passers in total yardage with 3,875, and finished a hair behind Flutie in passing efficiency, 152.9 to 151.8.

- He completed 283 passes in 458 attempts for a .618 completion percentage; 33 tosses resulted in TDs.

- His 327.7 yards per game made him the nation's top offensive player.

- In postseason honors he finished third in Heisman Trophy balloting, and UPI awarded him second team All-America laurels.

No wonder his quarterback coach keeps him around, even if Bosco *can't* forcefeed a



three-year-old. "Statistically, he had a year that exceeded my expectations," says Holmgren. "His possibilities are unlimited if he can just continue to get better and not think about what he did as a junior. Last year he was like a kid in a candy store, coming into my office six or seven games into the season to ask me, 'Did you think this was going to happen?'"

Robbie Bosco's success is all the sweeter in view of his anonymity until last year. As a senior at Roseville (Calif.) High—the same school that graduated Fred Besana (Oakland Invaders), Ivan Cook (Washington), and Del Detwiler (Stanford)—Bosco caught the eye of *no* major out-of-state coaches except that of BYU's LaVell Edwards, despite passing for 3,000 career yards.

Bosco hails from an athletic family. His father, Louis, a high school counselor, was an outstanding athlete in both football and basketball. Louis urged Robbie to repeatedly enter "Punt, Pass, and Kick" competitions from the time the boy was eight, "when I really didn't know how to throw the ball." Big brother John—senior by three years—was once the starting quarterback for Roseville and graduated from BYU with a physical education degree. During Robbie's freshman year in high school, when the going got tough, young Bosco wanted to get going for good, but John sweet-talked his brother out of quitting the team. Muscular John also vaulted from the stands during a Roseville vs. Nevada Union High football brawl to John Wayne two opposing players who had cornered his kid brother.

Robbie denies any sibling rivalry between them, calling John "my biggest fan," but he does say the two strove to clobber each other in sports. "Competition is what keeps you going, and I just love it," Robbie says. "My brother used to beat me bad at basketball, but it just made me get better. There's something about losing that makes you *want* to get better."

ROBBBIE BOSCO, WHOSE HEROES are nonfootballers Reggie Jackson and Larry Bird, is in the flesh a more unlikely celebrity than Bernhard Goetz. His blond girlfriend of nearly two years, Karen Holt, describes him as "real shy until you get to know him, and then he's like a little kid, never worried about what others think." For one *INSIDE SPORTS* interview Bosco shows up in a rumpled blue T-shirt (with a black creepy crawler design) that looks in dire need of fumigation. "I had no other clean shirts, so I just found this one laying around," he admits.

Robbie looks like the basketball guard he was back in high school, and the same reporters who wrote off Flutie last year will tell you this year that Bosco is too slight to

play pro ball. He stands 6'3", but a good foot of that is neck. According to Karen, her beau "is real good-looking" in a boyish way, with brown, curling bangs and a toothy smile he owes to God and last year's leak-proof "Y" offensive line. His Provo home is a one-bedroom, bare-bones basement wonder he refers to as "The Dungeon"—an apt description for a place whose most sophisti-

from his peers on campus only by the potential multimillion-dollar arm jutting out his tasteless T-shirt.

During the long '84 season, Bosco gained some offseason sophistication with experience. Ironically, although his major is speech education, he came across as anything but articulate in early-season interviews. After BYU's thrilling come-from-behind 20-14 win



Polish-Hawaiian Kozlowski is Bosco's favorite pass target.

cated architectural feature is a Garfield figurine.

"I like to stay by myself; I'm reserved," he shrugs, when asked why he has no roommate. The dungeon has a kitchen about the size of a putt-putt boat's galley, but except for slurping food from a can over the sink, Robbie's content to let McDonald's, Sizzler, and Pizza Express ("the best pizza in town") do the cooking for him. He and Karen enjoy "Dollar Night" movies most Thursdays in Provo, but on Sundays the two take a 45-minute interstate drive to Salt Lake City to play miniature golf, bowl at the Galleria, and indulge in a stove-cooked meal with his best girl's parents. Around Provo you'll find him fishing occasionally with teammate Mark Bellini, but he hates skiing, arguing that bruising one's body makes sense only when there's a crowd around to cheer. Unlike many of his Mormon teammates, he's elected not to forgo two years of his college career by going on a mission to a foreign country, declaring: "Just being the quarterback at BYU is like being on a mission, because you're speaking in public all the time and influencing people for the Church."

In short, Robbie Bosco is a genial, fun-loving college kid—albeit one aware of his religious responsibilities—distinguished

over then-highly ranked Pitt in his maiden performance, a much-battered Bosco looked woefully at the microphone and cameras of the ESPN interviewers dogging him and asked if they'd mind "doing this thing tomorrow." A nervous kid who couldn't eat or sleep before the Pitt game, he avoided sports writers until he read stories describing him as aloof and unfriendly—a description that both puzzled him and hurt his feelings.

Last offseason, however—prepped by his college speech teachers, Holmgren, and sports information director Dave Schulthess—Robbie worked as hard on his oral skills as he heretofore had worked on his footwork, succeeding in feeling considerably more comfortable meeting the press. "Even if I don't like to do interviews, I treat them right," he says. "If you treat them bad, they'll snap back at you in the newspapers." Part of his difficulty with the press, he shrugs, was the way officious reporters asked him again and again at season's end why BYU deserved to be No. 1. "We're 13-and-oh," Robbie kept saying, but the questioners wanted a response more befitting Plato or Aristotle than a kid quarterback. "People all have their opinions, but we beat everyone fair and square," he says now in

retrospect. "I don't know what else we have to do to gain respect. We didn't create the polls. We did what we were supposed to do by winning."

In addition, the youngster was besieged by well-meaning "Y" rooters until finally he stayed buried in his dungeon much of the time, coming out for classes, meals, and practices. "The fans around here put so much pressure on a quarterback it's almost unbelievable," he marvels. "Like coach Edwards told us, 'It's getting to be a monster!'"

The quarterback, however, never had to fake his affection for his coaches and teammates. Quick with repartee, a slap-butt, holler guy on the sidelines, Robbie earns top marks in team popularity. He delights in calling his teammates by their nicknames instead of given names, but chuckles that so far he's managed to avoid having a moniker pinned on him. His favorite target for practical jokes is also his preferred receiver, Glen Kozlowski, a Polish-Hawaiian, mixed-blood senior whose brother Michael plays strong safety with Miami.

"Koz tries to set the receivers against me all the time," chuckles Bosco. "But one time me and Sluggo [ultra laid-back tight end David Mills] teamed up against him in practice. I didn't throw one single ball to Glen—he was furious!"

THE GLORY OF A NATIONAL championship centered 55-year-old BYU coach LaVell Edwards in the limelight for the first time in his 27 years on BYU's staff, including 13 seasons as head coach during which his teams have rolled to a 118-37-1 (.760) record. Among his 1984 souvenirs, he counts Coach of the Year honors from both the Football Writers Association and the American Football Coaches Association. Going into the '85 season against Boston College, the Cougars will protect a 23-game winning streak—longest in the nation—and seek their 11th Western Athletic Conference title under Edwards.

Last year Edwards, a technically brilliant football man with a doctorate to his name, had an emotional reason for pushing his troops onward and upward. Philo Edwards, his beloved 87-year-old father, had told friends, "One of the things I want to see happen before I die is my boy with the national championship."

Maybe this winsome wish of a retired fruit farmer wasn't as dramatic a line as "Win one for the Gipper," but it worked. Someone coined an expression called "The Philo Syndrome," which served tolerably well as a battle cry all last season.

If Edwards is going to repeat in '85, old Philo is going to have to conjure up a mighty powerful new syndrome to carry the Cougs. Last year, Oklahoma's Barry Switzer deliv-

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ered his now-famous diatribe against BYU's alleged pud schedule, but this year's schedule could impress even the outspoken Sooner coach and TV personality Bryant Gumbel (Gumbel's "*B. Y. Who?*" remark still makes him the most hated man in Provo). BYU opens the football season against 1984's fourth-ranked Boston College in New Jersey's Kickoff Classic, before opening at Provo against Fiesta Bowl winner UCLA and consensus No. 2 team, Don James' Washington Huskies. Then comes a rest (Ha!) against Temple in Philadelphia before the WAC season begins. Wyoming, Utah, and the Air Force are foaming to end the Cougars' embarrassing domination over them.

So tough a schedule does Edwards face that he'll tell you frankly, "You give me three wins in the first four games right now, and I'll take my chances on the rest of the year." The schedule is also a prominent item in Robbie Bosco's mind these days. "Those are some great teams we're playing, and there's no doubt that if we can win them, no one can say we played a weak schedule," he says. "If we lose, people will say, 'I told you they can't play anyone tough.' Yeah, there's going to be some pressure on us to win some games. We've been looking forward to the Kickoff Classic to finally get some national exposure on TV. Boston College is a great challenge for us."

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT AT A Mormon-run institution, Bosco—a convert his freshman year—must adhere to a rigid lifestyle. True to the code of his church, he doesn't smoke, drink, or cuss. And since purity is also demanded of "Y" jocks, he refuses to even wrap his arm around Karen during an I.S. photo shoot, despite the encouragement to do so by a teammate who wanders on the scene.

Bosco insists that he has no need for stimulants. "I never enjoyed coffee, liquor, or that stuff even when I wasn't a member of the church," he shrugs. "I just never had a taste for it."

Edwards, a former Mormon bishop, stresses that Bosco and other Cougars adhere to a code that is equally strict for all students at Brigham Young, the largest private university in the country. There is a code of dress required for BYU students, but apparently Edwards hasn't informed his T-shirted quarterback about *that* rule. "It was a lot tougher in the '60s than now," Edwards says. "Hair back then was really a problem. Great kids, guys that weren't being rebellious but stylish, had to cut their hair and keep it off their ears. But we don't recruit them under false pretenses. I tell all recruits what's expected of them. Mormon, non-Mormon, black or white, the main con-

sideration is lifestyle. If a guy can accept that lifestyle, he's not going to have a problem."

Jokingly, Edwards is asked if there is any truth to the rumor that a recruit with spiked blue hair is joining the team this fall. The coach's craggy face suddenly gets much craggier. "Hey, I hope not," he groans.

Truth to tell, Edwards has enough troubles finding a defensive back to go partners with swift returnee Jeff Sprowls, to replace

Bosco stoutly maintains that his offensive line will pull together under the well-respected French by showtime. "I don't think I'll have to take a pounding every game," he says. "Sure, you're going to get sacked, maybe even sacked two or three times in a row sometime. Those things happen. But we have a great offensive line coach. There is *not* going to be a time where another team just destroys us."



Bosco doesn't smoke, drink, cuss, or hug Karen in public.

graduated All-America defensive back Kyle Morrell. In addition, he must almost totally rebuild the BYU trenches after four seniors graduated from last year's best line in college football. Only 267-pound tackle Dave Wright remains to protect Bosco. "We have replacements with size and ability," shrugs Edwards. "They just don't have any experience right now." Offensive line coach Roger French's most likely field replacements are 265-pound Scott Robinson at the other tackle slot, and David King (264 pounds) and John Borgia (288 pounds) at guard. The center position is a dogfight between Brian Rodoni and Todd Downing. Best replacement around is 275-pound sophomore Doug Rawlinson.

Until the line matures, most likely not before the third or fourth game of the season, Bosco knows he's going to take some licks. Even though he's resilient and tough, however, there is only so much punishment his 180-pound body can absorb. Only an average runner and ball-handler, his forte is staying in the pocket to eye his receivers' routes. If forced from the pocket to throw off-balance or even left-handed, as he did against Wyoming ("I'll do anything to get my picture in the paper, the guys razz me," he chuckles), chances are his excellent '84 attempts-to-pickoff ratio will suffer.

On offense the most visible replacement is at tight end, where Trevor Molini, a 6'4", 230-pound sophomore from Reno, will quickly have pro scouts licking their chops. "He's going to be a great one," promises Bosco. "It's only a matter of time [before] he'll be a great one, with his speed and size," chimes in Edwards. The threat of Molini is going to help honorable-mention All-American Glen Kozlowski improve upon his already impressive stats (55 passes caught in 1984 for 879 yards and 11 TDs). The "Y" also has a 207-pound baby bull returning at fullback, Hawaiian-born Lakei Heimuli; a consistent halfback (two TDs against Bo's boys in the Holiday Bowl) in Kelly Smith; and three big, mean returning linebackers in Leon White, Kurt Gouveia (yet another Hawaiian!), and Cary Whittingham. Should an injury knock Bosco out of commission, the troops are in trouble. Senior backup quarterback Blaine Fowler has shown more heart than skill in relief, and BYU's potential quarterback-of-the-future, Mike (Steve's little brother) Young, is at least a year of seasoning from being ready.

Despite all the holes he's filling, Edwards likes to remind you that his potential Heisman QB was also untried at this point last season. "I would be surprised if we were ranked No. 1," he muses, "but I would

suspect that we must be ranked somewhere in the top five, if only because Robbie Bosco and Glen Kozlowski are returning."

Edwards frequently compares Robbie to the great BYU quarterbacks of the past, such as Jim McMahon, Young, and Marc Wilson. "I've never seen a guy better at rising to the occasion when the pressure is really on and the game is in the balance," he says. "His fourth-quarter exploits are as good as anybody we've had." BYU won five games last year by a TD or less, all of them come-from-behind affairs.

Should Bosco's record come close to matching last year's stats, Edwards feels Robbie can inherit the Heisman Trophy from Flutie. "I think Robbie's got a legitimate chance to win it," Edwards insists. "A lot depends on what kind of record we have and what kind of record [Ohio State's Keith] Byars has, but I think us winning the national championship is going to help him. Flutie won it with a couple of losses, so even if we do have a couple of losses, Robbie might still win it. If we're in the middle of the pack struggling, no matter how good he is it's going to be tough for him."

Bosco himself says he "doesn't know" what it's like to lose a game. "It's never happened either when I've started or gone in as a backup," he shrugs. "When I do make a mistake in a game—I throw an interception or fumble the ball—I forget about it and come right back to the bench to talk it over with the coaches. We figure how we made the mistake and see that it doesn't happen again. Steve Young gave me some good advice. He said: 'You'll have good days and bad days. On those bad days you've just got to stick it out.' I knew where he was coming from in giving advice—he had that one bad game against Georgia where he threw a couple of interceptions. He's a guy who's been through it before, and it gives you more assurance he's right."

THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION the whole country is asking—Can BYU repeat as national champs?—is, sadly, definitely not. The team has too many holes and not enough men with shovel-handling experience to fill them. But with Robbie Bosco filling the air with footballs 40 or 50 times a game, anything can happen. One thing's certain, you know the "Y" and Bosco will give one helluva—oops, sorry, coach Edwards—one heckuva good try in '85. ■

Contributing writer HANK NUWER doesn't drink, smoke, or cuss, and his wife doesn't hug him in public. Besides this piece on BYU, Hank has written feature articles on the football programs at Auburn, Texas, and Clemson for I.S.



1980

July—Jim Rice
August—Willie Randolph
September—Year of the QB
October—Monday Night Madness
December—Ray Meyer/Bear Bryant

1981

March—President Reagan
April—George Brett
May—Al Davis
June—Jan Stephenson/Jim Palmer
August—NFL's Best Kept Secret
September—Leonard vs. Hearn
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October—Jack Lambert
November—Too Tall Jones

1983

December—Hagler vs. Duran

1984

January—Ken Stabler
March—Darryl Strawberry
April—'84 Baseball Preview
May—Fernando Valenzuela
June—Mike Schmidt
July—Garvey/Gossage
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'85 FOOTBALL

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
Vote Notre Dame in second place.*
—Chant by University of Alabama fans
during the 1967 Sugar Bowl game

“WHEN YOU’RE PLAYING for the national title,” former Michigan State coach Duffy Daugherty told his players before a Rose Bowl game, “it’s not a question of life and death. It’s much more important than that.” Many university officials and alumni would agree. The Championship of College Football is officially nonexistent—there are no provisions in the NCAA charter for a championship in Division I-A. But a season-ending No. 1 ranking in the Associated Press and United Press International polls can be worth several hundred thousand dollars to a school, in the form of lucrative post-season bowl bids, future TV appearances, and the all-important recruitment of blue-chip athletes. Why, then, does the NCAA continue to allow matters more important than life to be resolved by a couple of popularity polls?

Good question. Many potential fans of the college game are turned off by the idea of polls. Even fans of pro football, who are accustomed to the Byzantine playoff system of the NFL, find the college football polls incomprehensible and inconclusive.

There are several reasons the polls appear that way, but the main reason is that they *are* that way. The AP poll, first taken in 1936, is a canvass of the leading sports writers and broadcasters around the country. But none of the voters sees more than two games a week, and many of them share the kind of prejudices that once caused a prominent sports writer to confess, “I have two favorite teams: Navy, and whoever is playing Notre Dame.”

The UPI poll, launched in 1950 to compete with the AP’s, relies on the votes of college coaches. It, too, is tinged with politics—some coaches freely admit to voting for forthcoming opponents or for teams in distant parts of the country rather than for local rivals against whom they have to recruit. Some pay scant attention to the list and leave it to assistants. (A former assistant sports information director at Cornell relates that he often “made up the list myself. Sometimes, the coach would pick the top three and I’d pick the rest. Sometimes he didn’t check the list at all.” The possible reaction of Duffy

Daugherty, Bear Bryant, Woody Hayes, or Darrell Royal to learning that he had lost a national championship on the vote of a future off-Broadway theater critic is mind boggling.)

Which poll is most prestigious? Well, which one did your school finish highest in?

Actually, there are a number of lesser polls, including the *Sports Illustrated* poll, *The Sporting News* poll, the *USA Today* poll, the National Hall of Fame poll (which awards the MacArthur Bowl to its winner), and the Football Writers Association of America poll, a vote by a 1,200-member organization that inexplicably allows a five-man panel to deter-

mine its champ. Any team that finishes first in one of these polls has a perfect right to proclaim itself “National Champions.” For that matter, there is nothing to stop anyone who *doesn’t* win one from doing so. After beating LSU in the 1974 Sugar Bowl to finish a perfect 12-0, a jubilant Joe Paterno announced he was having national championship rings made up for his Penn State team. Asked by a sports writer what poll his No. 6 (AP, UPI) ranked Nittany Lions had won, he shot back: “The Paterno Poll! We had it in the locker room right after the game!”

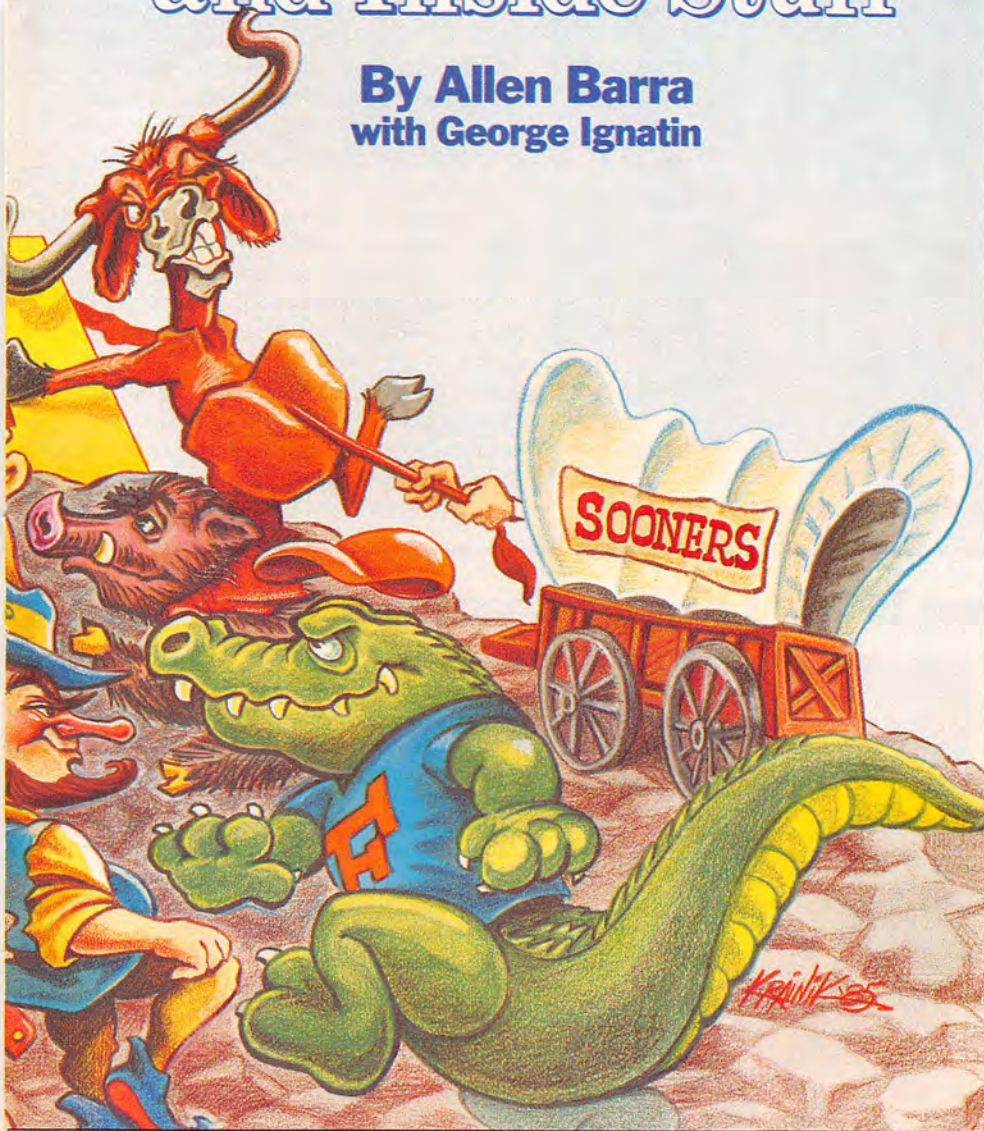
Of course, for true connoisseurs of sports controversy the appeal of the polls is that



College RATINGS and Inside Stuff

By Allen Barra
with George Ignatin

**Why leave
the selection
of the national champion
to a bunch of sleepy,
partisan sports writers?
It's time for a solid,
objective ranking
of college teams—
science not bias**



they are designed not to settle arguments but to *start* them. Any Auburn or Ohio State grad can offer you perfectly valid reasons why his school's 1957 squad should not have had to split national honors with the other. Alabama fans, despite sharing pieces of five national titles in the last 17 years, still simmer over the 1966 vote that saw an 11-0 Crimson Tide finish behind a 9-0-1 Notre Dame and a 9-0-1 Michigan State team that had tied each other 10-10. The vote was made especially galling by Notre Dame coach Ara Parsegian's overly cautious decision to run out the clock rather than gamble on a long pass that could have won (or lost)

that so-called "Game of the Decade." Parsegian was well aware that all things being equal—or perhaps even slightly unequal—Notre Dame could just about always pull down more votes than Alabama, or Michigan State, for that matter.

It wasn't the first time in college football that a coach allowed politics to dictate on-the-field strategy, but it was the first time a national TV audience became aware of the power of the polls. It was also the year that the limitations of the bowl games in deciding national champions became undeniably apparent.

The basic stumbling block to instituting a

playoff system is that absolutely no one has the vaguest idea of who would be involved and how it would work. There are approximately 120 schools playing what is considered major college football, and each plays no more than 11 games in a season (except for the lucky few who get dispensation to play the University of Hawaii). Then there are four major postseason bowl games—the Rose, the Cotton, the Sugar, and the Orange—in which the top teams can meet. (There are a host of lesser bowls, too, but they can't compete with the big ones for money. Twenty of the last 22 national titles have been decided in these four bowls.)

RATINGS

and Inside Stuff



Uneasy lies the crown on Bosco and the BYU Cougars.

The bowl games, of course, weren't created to accommodate a national title game. They were intended to be postseason rewards—anticlimactic, as it were. (Not until 1974, in fact, did both wire-service polls decide to wait till *after* the bowls to vote for a national champion.) All that changed with the Notre Dame-Michigan State game in 1966. No college football game up to that time had been so eagerly anticipated, and none drew such enormous TV ratings (actually, the game wasn't scheduled for telecast, but ABC bowed to public pressure).

The bowl committees watched in despair: Not only were the two most attractive teams in the country ineligible for postseason play—Notre Dame by choice, Michigan State by a Big 10 rule that prevented teams from playing in the Rose Bowl two consecutive years—but they were eliminating the possibility of the No. 1 issue being settled in

The Six Best Teams Never To Win a National Championship

1. 1966 ALABAMA. If there is a God, he will see to it that wherever the players of Alabama's 1966 squad spend eternity they'll at least be wearing national championship rings. This team went 11-0 and finished third in the AP and UPI polls, as Notre Dame and Michigan State finished 1-2 after playing to a historic 10-10 tie. (To be fair, the Irish and the Spartans fielded outstanding teams that year; also, the polls back then voted *before* the bowl games, so Alabama's 34-7 demolition of a 9-1 Nebraska team went unrewarded.) Anchored by All-America defensive back Bobby Johns, the defense allowed an astounding total of 37 points—that's 37 points *all season*—and the offense featured a productive pass-catch combo named Kenny Stabler and Ray Perkins. Bear Bryant called this his best team ever—that must count for something.

2. 1971 OKLAHOMA. This team is to college football what the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers were to baseball: If a ball bounced a little differently here and there, they might have been remembered as the greatest of all time instead of the greatest second-best. In Oklahoma's case, the ball that took the unfortunate bounce was the one that 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers ran back 72 yards for a touchdown, helping Nebraska's great squad edge the Sooners, 35-31, in their classic showdown. Oklahoma rebounded to slaughter Auburn and 1971 Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan 40-22 in the Sugar Bowl). The Oklahoma Wishbone, powered by half-back Greg Pruitt and engineered by quarter-



Pruitt and the Sooner offense destroyed defenses in '71.

back Jack Mildren, was one of the most destructive offensive machines in the history of the game, averaging more than 500 yards and 40 points a game.

3. 1983 NEBRASKA. Field Marshal Rommel—or maybe it was Montgomery, now that we think of it—once said that the only battle that counts is the last one. To Heisman winner Mike Rozier, quarterback Turner Gill, and flanker Irving Fryar, the adage turned out to be painfully true. This team was not only

No. 1 all season, it was being called the greatest of all time until that fateful day in the Orange Bowl against Miami. Who knew how good Bernie Kosar, Eddie Brown, and those guys were until that game? Still, let it be recorded that the Cornhuskers might have walked off with a share of the national title if they had kicked the tying conversion instead of missing a pass for the winning two-point attempt. Still, being No. 1 for 719 minutes and 48 seconds means *something*, doesn't it?

4. 1966 MICHIGAN STATE. No one's ever come up with a solution for what to do when No. 1 plays No. 2 and they tie. Duffy Daugherty suggested that Michigan State be No. 1 and Notre Dame No. 1A; the pollsters didn't buy it. Irritating (and now junked) rules prevented those two teams from playing in a bowl game, so perhaps the 10-10 tie was poetic justice. The teams were awesome, the Irish fielding All-America candidates such as Terry Hanratty, Jim Seymour, Nick Eddy, Rocky Bleier, Jim Lynch, and Alan Page; and the Spartans countering with Clint Jones, Gene Washington, Jess Phillips, George Webster (who was later voted Defensive Player of the Decade), and the future star of TV, movies, and Lite beer commercials, Bubba Smith.

5. 1977 ARKANSAS. You like underdogs? This might have been the best underdog—or underhog—ever. How many football fans do you ever hear talk about Ron Calciagni (QB), Danny Bobo (E), and Roland Sales (RB), and how they led one of the best unknown teams of the decade? Not many? Well, these

one of *their* bowls. Things quickly loosened. The bowl people lobbied for changes in rules and voting procedures and eventually got them. Notre Dame, for instance, in 1969 received papal dispensation to play in bowl games, and has since won two titles in postseason play.

But the bowls didn't trust one another. The Rose Bowl, the oldest and therefore most prestigious bowl, and its committee found a way to keep it the most lucrative: Tie it contractually to the Pacific Eight (now Pac-10) Conference and the Midwest's Big 10, thus capturing the two biggest TV markets in college football. The Cotton Bowl thought it logical to have the Southwest Conference champ as host. The Sugar and Orange began to panic lest they get squeezed out of a chance to host a national title match, so they signed, respectively, the Southeast Conference and the Big 8 to long-

guys pulled one of the spectacular upsets in college football history in the 1978 Orange Bowl. The Hogs went 10-1 on the year, losing (13-9) only to archrival Texas, a team that went unbeaten and was ranked No. 1 during the regular season. The big Notre Dame upset over Texas in the Cotton Bowl stole Arkansas' thunder. When Arkansas coach Lou Holtz suspended three of his best players before the Orange Bowl, oddsmakers took the game off the board and Oklahoma fans licked their chops in anticipation of orange juice and barbecued pork on the way to the national championship. Instead, the No. 2 Sooners went bust and the Hogs went wild, destroying Oklahoma, 31-6, to mark one of the biggest point differentials ever between spread and result in a major bowl game.

6. 1984 FLORIDA. What are a few recruiting violations among friends? All right, so Florida's undercover tactics were as scummy as Richard Nixon's—if you want to kick them out of the NCAA, go ahead, we won't argue with you. But until then, don't ask us to ignore what we've seen them do on the gridiron. By any objective measure, this was the best college football team of 1984, playing a killer schedule whose last four victims included Auburn, Georgia, Kentucky, and Florida State. Anchored by center Phil Bromley and tackle Lomas Brown, the '84 Gators had one of the most devastating offensive lines in the modern game, and in Neal Anderson, Lorenzo Hampton, and John L. Williams perhaps the best stable of backs in the country.

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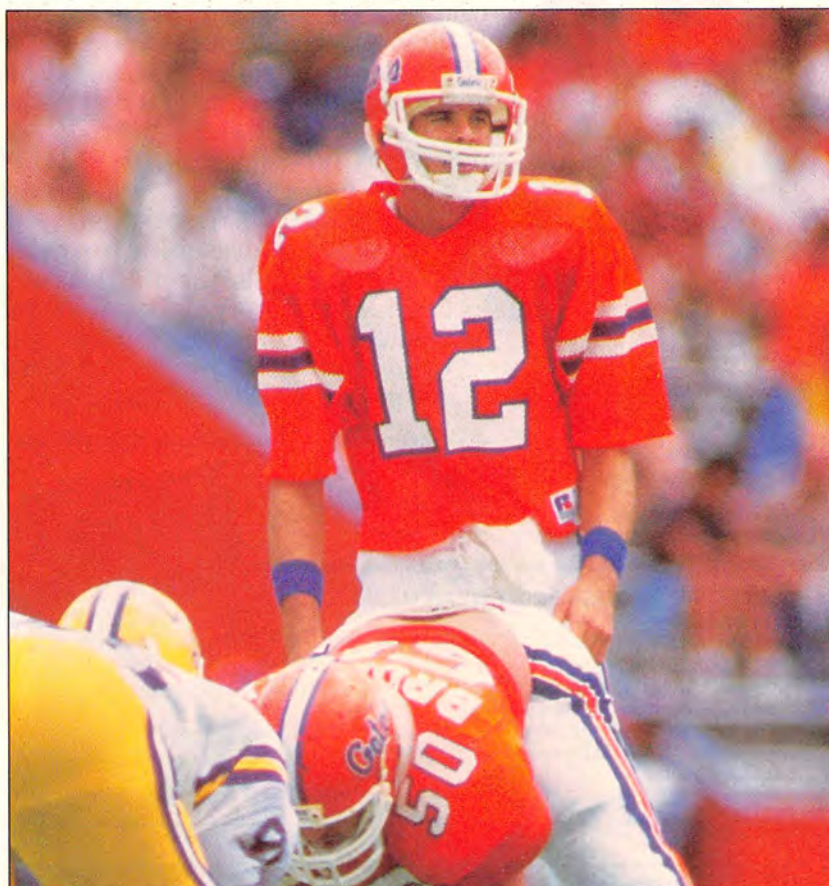
RATINGS

and Inside Stuff

Florida Earned the Real No. 1 Ranking

In the interest of better football, here are George Ignatin's power-rated Top 20 for the 1984 season, including postseason bowls (a rating of 105 is about average for major college ball—a "good" team is defined as 105 points or better).

School	Ignatin Power Rating	W-L-T Record	Final AP Rating	Final UPI Rating	Final USA Today Rating
1. Florida	122.5	9-1-1	3	7	2
2. Nebraska	122.4	10-2	4	3	5
3. Boston College	120.0	10-2	5	4	4
4. Washington	118.1	11-1	2	2	3
5. Oklahoma	117.5	9-2-1	6	6	6
6. Maryland	117.4	9-3	12	11	8
7. Oklahoma St.	116.3	10-2	7	7	9
8. Auburn	115.7	9-4	14	14	17
9. Florida St.	115.3	7-3-2	17	20	—
10. BYU	115.2	13-0	1	1	1
11. SMU	114.1	10-2	8	8	12
12. Ohio State	113.8	9-3	13	12	—
13. Tennessee	113.3	7-4-1	—	—	—
14. Virginia	113.0	8-2-2	20	17	18
15. W. Virginia	112.4	8-4	—	18	15
16. S. Carolina	112.0	10-2	11	13	7
17. Iowa	111.9	8-4-1	16	15	—
18. Arkansas	111.9	7-4-1	—	—	—
19. Notre Dame	111.8	7-5	—	—	—
20. Miami	111.5	8-5	18	—	20



This year, Bell's Florida Gators are locked out of No. 1.

term contracts. By 1975, each major bowl was allied with at least one conference. Add to this the bowls' irritating policy of sending out bids before the regular season ends, and you have a method for selecting a national champion that usually ends up generating more heat than light.

A growing number of frustrated sports

The Four Worst Teams Ever To Win a National Championship

1978 ALABAMA and SOUTHERN CAL—After the year-long shouting match between Alabama and Southern Cal fans over the 1978 split-vote that awarded a title to both schools, what resolution of the argument could possibly anger *both* factions? How about this: Oklahoma should have been the national champ in 1978. We're not saying that teams with people like Tony Nathan, Jeff Rutledge, Marty Lyons, Don McNeal, Charles White, and Paul McDonald weren't very good; what we're saying is that the Sooners, who were ranked No. 1 most of the year, were penalized because their only loss came at the end of the season instead of early. The loss, incidentally, was a 17-14 heartbreaker to archrival Nebraska at Lincoln; the Sooners avenged it by whipping the Huskers in the Orange Bowl. Since Alabama had lost early on to Southern Cal, and since the Trojans beat Michigan in the Rose Bowl on a fluke—Charles White was awarded a TD when films showed he actually lost the ball about 17 seconds short of the goal line—Oklahoma's Orange Bowl win should have won them at least a share of the title.

1980 GEORGIA—Before we incur the wrath of 'Dog fans—which we've probably already done—we want to point out that if any team ever deserved a national title on the basis of sheer pluck and grit(s), it was this bunch of scrappy good ol' boys. But by any objective measure *we've* seen, Georgia was *not* the best football team in the country in 1980. They won five games by the margin of a TD or less, including a 28-21 victory over an Ole Miss team that lost eight games. They beat Tennessee by one TD; four teams beat the Vols worse. The incredible number of flukes by which the Bulldogs won their Sugar Bowl match with Notre Dame still has Irish fans shaking their heads. Outgained by a mediocre Irish team by the margin of 200 yards, Georgia scored its winning TD on a two-yard drive following a fumbled kickoff. Pitt, with sophomore quarterback Dan Marino, went 11-1

writers and fans have suggested that a less arbitrary method of selecting a national champion might be in order. One method is computer analysis, which, thanks to *The New York Times* weekly College Top 20, is having greater influence on football rankings and how college bowl teams are selected.

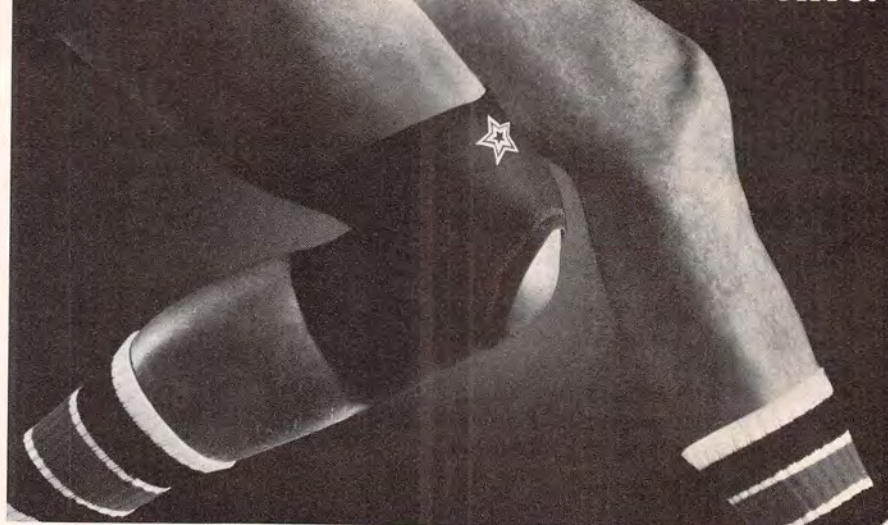


Herschel's Dawgs grabbed No. 1 on a fumbled kickoff.

against a tough schedule, losing only to a superb Florida State team, and won a bowl against South Carolina 37-9, a team Georgia beat 13-10 at Athens.

1984 BRIGHAM YOUNG—Question: When was the last time the national championship of college football was settled in a bowl that only cable subscribers could see? Question: Why, in boxing, when an undefeated champion beats a challenger who has lost as often as won, does Howard Cosell call it a mismatch, and when the same thing happens in college football, Jim Lampley calls it "parity"? Why did people rave about BYU's win over 6-5 Michigan, when BYU could just as easily have *lost*, the winning score coming on a fourth-quarter, fourth-down pass? Why did all their competitors for the national title get run under a microscope, while Brigham Young got excuses? Why was BYU even considered to be in contention for the same title as Florida, Nebraska, Boston College? What is the evidence for even regarding the WAC as a major conference? Why, in 1975, when Arizona State (then a WAC team) went 11-0, beating BYU and then Nebraska in a bowl game, was there no similar outcry for them to finish No. 1? Why, if no one outside of the Osmond Family thinks that BYU was the best team in the country, were they considered to be winners of a title that's mythical in the first place? And if it's mythical, why will 700,000 Mormons want to string us up?

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RATINGS

and Inside Stuff

Hype, Hype Hooray For the Heisman

The Heisman Trophy, awarded annually to what the New York Downtown Athletic Club likes to call "The Outstanding College Football Player in the United States," is widely regarded as the most prestigious award in American sports. It probably is, but it is also one of the most meaningless.

Many if not most of the more than 1,300 writers who are qualified to vote for the Heisman never see the leading candidates more than a couple of times a year on TV, let alone the deserving players who never make it to national TV. (Some don't see *any* of the candidates; so poorly is the list of eligible voters kept up to date that several ballots have been mailed this year to sports writers dead for years.) And what does "most outstanding" mean, anyway? The most valuable? The best at a particular position? Or the best pro prospect?

Judging from the list of winners in recent years, the Heisman should be defined as the award for the most highly touted black junior or senior tailback from a major college team with a good PR staff. At least this defines the winners of the last 12 Heisman trophies, except for Penn State's John Cappelletti in 1973, who spoiled the list only by being Italian, and Doug Flutie last year. Coaches from Knute Rockne to Vince Lombardi have told us that football is won by blocking and tackling, but apparently the likes of Rockne and Lombardi have never been asked to vote for the Heisman Trophy winner. No one who plays a blocking or tackling position exclusively has ever won the award; the only two linemen to have won Heismans played in the one-platoon era and were celebrated primarily for their pass-receiving rather than their defensive ability. No defensive player has ever come close to winning.

The current trend favoring tailbacks began in 1968, when O. J. Simpson captured the imagination of the sporting public as no football player since Red Grange. Prior to Simpson, quarterback had been the game's glamour position, but when the NCAA sanctioned the switch to unlimited substitution in the early '60s—a move that changed football from a game like other games, where players played both offense and defense, to a game of single-skill specialists—coaches soon realized that the simplest way to win was to recruit a wall of huge, strong blockers, and the fastest, most durable runner who could carry the ball 30 to 40 times a game in back of them. Since Simpson, only three quarterbacks have won the Heisman.



Navy hopes the Heisman voting won't be Napoleon's Waterloo.

Every year the confused sports fan is bombarded with reams of statistics supplied by university public relations men frantic to create a consensus for their candidate before the football season even begins. Dutifully, newspapers reprint the statistics as if they actually meant something: This strong-armed Heisman Trophy candidate "passed for 3,000 yards and 72 touchdowns in his last four games"—never hinting that it might have been better for his team if he had thrown about 600 fewer passes and handed the ball off to a running back now and then—or that this ball-toting young stud "just passed up 24 immortals on the all-time list with his spectacular 400-yard performance" against a one-and-six West Tennessee Tech.

What do these statistics mean? If a basketball player hits 72 foul shots in a row, it tells us something about his shooting ability. If a shortstop accumulates a certain number of total bases, we have an objective yardstick to measure his performance against a left fielder or a third baseman. But how does one measure the value or effectiveness of an offensive guard, or an outside linebacker? What does it really mean that a defensive lineman had "72 tackles, a team record"? (Or for that matter, the ever-popular "51 and ½ tackles"? Does half a tackle mean you share the tackle with a teammate, or that you took an opponent's arm or leg off?)

For that matter, how does one measure the effectiveness of a star running back in relation to anything? Nebraska's Mike Rozier averaged

nearly eight yards every time he carried the ball, while Navy's Napoleon McCallum—a Heisman Trophy name if ever there was one—averaged about five. Does this mean that Rozier is one-third better a runner than McCallum, or just that Nebraska's offensive line is one-third bigger than Navy's? (A sports writer swears that in one Nebraska game, Rozier carried the ball eight times before anyone on the defense hit him within three yards of the line of scrimmage.) How many times did the Alexander Haig of college football, Woody Hayes, leave Archie Griffin in a game against a beaten and helpless opponent so that Griffin could extend his string of 100-plus yards games, and thus, in the words of Roy Blount Jr., "win the damn thing twice when he didn't deserve to win it once"?

So: who's going to win in '85? We're going out on a limb this year in predicting a spectacular upset in the Heisman balloting. Our sources have learned that four months after you see this in print, Shawn Martinez of the University of West Kansas State Tech at Los Angeles will have become the first native-born Puerto Rican interior lineman from a Division II school to win the award. Martinez, perhaps the most exciting 147-pound player since Groucho Marx helped Darwin stomp Huxley in "Horse Feathers," revolutionized lineplay with the concept of the "ankle block." He is currently undergoing surgery that will remove him from the thigh of a Nebraska defensive tackle, but doctors believe he'll be up and around in time for the awards ceremony.

But computerized ranking of college teams presents unique problems. "No one plays everyone," says a *Times* spokesman. "It's an open system, unlike professional sports. You have to select a top 20 from more than 100 schools that play every week; how can one person evaluate 50 or more football games a week? You need some kind of objective yardstick to measure everyone by, and I think the *Times* has broken some ground in that area."

The *Times*' criteria are simple enough, even if their methods are a bit abstruse to a layman. The rankings are based on an analysis of each team's record, with an emphasis on three major points: winning, the margin of victory, and the quality of opposition. The last factor is important; the computer checks not only a team's opponent's record, but the quality of the opponent's opponents. A score of 1,000 is then presented to the No. 1 team, which doesn't imply perfection but simply sets a standard the others are measured against.

The *New York Times* rankings are fairly extensive. Not only is the average margin of

victory for each Top 20 team listed, but the composite records of each team's opponents and their average margin of victory (or loss) is also included. "Margin of victory," is a tricky stat, but the *Times* has devised a method of "damping" runaway scores to keep the effects of one or two games from skewing the results. ("The computer," says Rolnick, "isn't fooled by Nebraska beating New Mexico 68-0.") In addition, performances each week are re-evaluated against the records of previous opponents. In other words, you could be idle and still see your rating climb or drop according to how your previous opponents perform.

The *Times*' Top 20 has only been around for a few years, but the concept of an objective ranking system for football teams dates back more than half a century. The first "official" winner of a "scientific" football poll was, as you probably guessed, Notre Dame—and it won the title not on the field but at lunch. It seems that an economics teacher at the University of Illinois named Frank G. Dickinson had devised a mathematical formula for rating all the teams in the country.

The Dumbest Mascots in College Football

The world of college football is filled with bizarre creatures and fabulous beings. Every school should have one, be it a white mule (Colby College), a boll weevil (University of Arkansas at Monticello), a papier maché alligator that looks like a refugee from a road company version of "Peter Pan" (Florida), or a short guy with a green pilgrim hat and gnarled stick who looks like the stand-in for a community theater production of "Finian's Rainbow" (Guess).

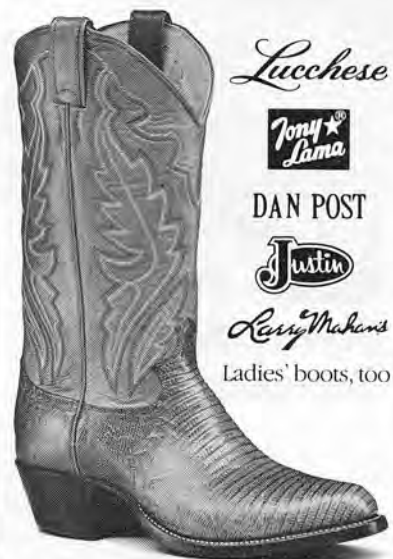
Not to pick on Harvard, but maybe the reason these guys can't win is that they don't have any imagination. A winning team (or even a spirited losing one) needs a maniac in a mascot uniform. Get a guy in a crimson lawyer's outfit, or something. Spice things up a bit. The students could yell, "Hold that line of defense!" or something equally intimidating.

Do you know of anyone who ever attended George Fox College in Newburg, Ore.? That's OK, neither do we. Well, the team was named after a real bear that was caught back in 1887. Quoting from their media guide: "The small cub was captured in the coast range foothills west of Carlton when its mother was shot. The young cub was brought to campus by a student and later lived with a faculty member.



The Irish were smart enough to pick a nonedible mascot.

Hmmmmmm. When it grew to adulthood it was kept in a pit south of the campus. It escaped one too many times and was turned into steak for the dining table, and the hide displayed in a campus museum." Believe it or not. We don't know about you, but we're a little hungry. Hey—look! Here comes the USC Trojan Horse. Hot damn, pass the A-1!



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List of Little Known Facts Concerning the Heisman Trophy

- Though the Southeastern Conference is renowned for its great football teams, only four SEC players have won the Heisman Trophy since the first one was presented in 1935. Alabama, which won five national championships between 1961 and 1979, didn't have a serious candidate on any of those teams; in fact, no Alabama player has ever won the trophy. Auburn has had only one winner (Pat Sullivan, 1971), despite the fact that the award is named after a former Auburn coach, John Heisman.

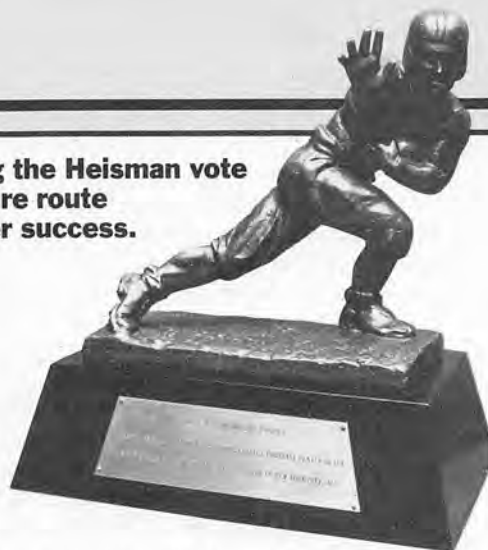
- Notre Dame's Angelo Bertelli won the award in 1943, though he played in only five games (he left to join the Marine Corps).

- Although the Heisman balloting is dominated by writers from the Midwest and the East, only three players from Eastern schools and one from a Midwestern school have won the award in the last 18 seasons.

- Although a halfback from Fordham posed for the Heisman Trophy itself, no player from that school has ever been a serious Heisman candidate.

- Although John Heisman was part Jewish, Pittsburgh's Marshall Goldberg was the only Jew to make a serious run at the trophy, finishing second behind TCU's Davey O'Brien in 1938.

Losing the Heisman vote is a sure route to later success.



- Former Notre Dame and now Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann's name was actually pronounced "Theēsman" in high school. The change was the brainchild of Notre Dame publicity man Roger Valdiserri, who thought that changing the quarterback's name to rhyme with "Heisman" would give him an edge with the voters. (Theismann did finish a close second to Stanford's Jim Plunkett, and has the distinction of being the only quarterback to make the AP All-America Team *ahead* of the Heisman Trophy winner.)

- A frequent complaint concerning Heisman Trophy winners is that they often end up flopping in pro football. This is unfair; the award, at least in theory, is for the best college player, and college football often demands different skills than does the pro game. However, history does indicate that *losing* the Heisman Trophy might offer a greater chance of attaining success in the outside world than winning it.

For instance, if you are a football player and want to make it in the world of entertainment, your best bet is to finish high in the balloting without actually winning. Consider that such show-biz luminaries as Joe Namath, Jim Brown, Don Meredith, Ed ("Hill Street Blues") Marino, and the first football star to strike movie gold, Alabama halfback and later cowboy star Johnny Mack Brown, never won a Heisman Trophy. Of all the Heisman winners, only O. J. Simpson has made a splash on TV and in movies; but then O. J. was a runner-up (to UCLA's Gary Beban) in 1967. (Purists discount Roger Staubach's Roloids commercials as show biz success.)

For added emphasis: No Heisman winner has ever distinguished himself in law the way 1937 runner-up Byron (Whizzer) White, the Supreme Court Justice, did; and no runner-up has ever fallen as low as 1959 winner Billy Cannon, who was indicted a couple of years ago for counterfeiting.

Not All Top Teams Had Tough Schedules

Want to argue about who played the toughest schedule? Here's a combination of all 13 teams who appeared in the AP, UPI, *USA Today*, and *Village Voice* (Ignatin) top 10 teams. The first column signifies the average strength of their opponents, the second how many good (110 or better) opponents they played.

School (Record)	Power Rating Avg. Opponent	Number Of Good Teams Played
1. Florida (9-1-1)	109.5	8
2. Auburn (9-4)	109.4	8
3. Boston College (10-2)	108.7	6
4. Florida State (7-3-2)	107.7	6
5. Maryland (9-3)	107.4	6
6. Southern Cal (9-3)	105.1	4
7. Oklahoma (9-2-1)	103.4	3
8. SMU (10-2)	102.9	2
9. Oklahoma State (10-2)	102.8	3
10. Nebraska (10-2)	101.4	4
11. Washington (11-1)	100.7	1
12. BYU (13-0)	100.0	1
13. UCLA (9-3)	99.8	2

Knocked Out By Killer Schedules

How important is schedule toughness in having what is perceived as a good season? Here are four not-so-bad teams whose seasons looked a lot worse than they were because of killer schedules. The first column signifies the average strength of their opponents, the second how many good (110 or better) opponents they played.

School (Record)	Power Rating Opponent	Number Of Good Teams Played
1. Syracuse (6-5)	111.6	7
2. Tennessee (7-4-1)	110.2	6
3. Alabama (5-6)	109.2	6
4. W. Virginia (8-4)	108.6	6

Knute Rockne got wind of it and invited Dickinson to lunch at South Bend. Sometime during the conversation Rockne persuaded Dickinson to pre-date the system so that the 1924 Fighting Irish squad—the immortal “Four Horsemen” team—would be the first “national champion.”

Notre Dame haters gleefully claim that the Irish “bought” their first championship for the price of a lunch—the assumption being, of course, that Rockne picked up the tab, a rather dubious proposition according to those who knew him. But the fact is that there might have been a more objective

stock market investment with betting on baseball), which certainly sound livelier than what Milton Friedman writes. As football columnist for *the Village Voice*, he has created a system for ranking teams that is the result of more than a decade’s research, and that is still evolving.

Ignatin’s system involves no preseason polls, no arbitrary assignments of a team’s strength. Instead, Ignatin uses what he calls

an “iterative [repeated approximations] error-learning system,” which is not a code name for a NASA procedure but a method of adjusting a football team’s power rating to its weekly performances. Ignatin stresses that the proper function of the computer is not to predict but to estimate. While his system is fine for determining any team’s strength in relation to the national average, adjustments are needed to predict—er, to estimate prob-

The Recipe For Making A National Champ

1. Schedule as many weak teams as possible. Most voters don't seem to care whom you beat as long as you have a gaudy won-lost record.
2. If you have to eventually play a tough team, try to play it at home. Good teams in major college ball often have a three-to-four-point home field advantage.
3. When you go to a bowl, pick one that will have the weakest possible opponent. Voters don't seem to care as long as you win a bowl game.
4. If you have to lose, lose early in the season. Nobody compares records at the end of the year—they only remember who lost last.

reason for Notre Dame’s first-place finish in 1924 than for Clemson’s in 1981, or Georgia’s in 1980, or for Brigham Young’s in 1984.

Nearly 60 years after Frank G. Dickinson’s fateful lunch, another economics teacher may have formulated the most objective ranking system to date. George Ignatin, a Philadelphia-born associate professor of economics at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, was recently described as “one of the country’s most astute—and controversial—analysts of sports statistics.” Ignatin, who has a B.A. in marketing from the University of Miami and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Texas, is the author of papers with unforgettable titles like “The Sandy Koufax Illusion and the Steve Carlton Conundrum” (concerning baseball salaries), “Do the Jets Play Namath at Defensive End?” (football salaries), and “A Random Walk to the Bullpen” (comparing

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RATINGS

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Ignatin's Notes on the '84 Season

- Public perception of the success or failure of a team is generally based on wins and losses. This would be fine if everyone played schedules of comparable toughness, but they don't. Despite the big difference in won-lost records between No. 20 (Miami) and No. 3 (Boston College), only a little more than a touchdown separates them—in fact, less than two TDs separate No. 4 and No. 33 on my list. Incidentally, my teams aren't ranked according to who beat whom—i.e., Notre Dame played slightly better ball over the course of the season, so they're ranked a third of a point ahead of Miami, who beat them.
- Only the first five teams on my chart played what could be called a truly tough schedule. All teams except Boston College (because of Flutie) were underrated for most of the season by the polls and media.
- UCLA's 1984 schedule was a disgrace; their MVP last year should have been whoever scheduled Long Beach State, San Diego State, and Colorado. How Nebraska got on the schedule is a mystery.
- Syracuse should fire its athletic director, or whoever scheduled Nebraska, Boston College, Florida, and Maryland all in one year. Or they should at least bring back Jim Brown: The Orangeman need him more than the Los Angeles Raiders do.
- Ray Perkins took a lot of flak, but the Crimson Tide didn't have much worse of a season than a lot of schools with better won-lost records: They just played an incredibly tough schedule in a tough conference, under adverse circumstances. Just the loss of running back Kerry Goode against Boston College in the opening game was probably the difference between a winning and losing season.
- Did Brigham Young play in a lousy conference? Indications are that there was much less of a gap between the Ivy League and the Western Athletic Conference than between the WAC and the powerful SEC.

able winners. In other words, it's not always how *much* strength you have, it's *where* you have it. A 7-4 team with a great passing game might have a better than average chance against a 10-1 team with a weak pass defense.

Nonetheless, systems like Ignatin's and the *Times'* offer the soundest yardstick available for measuring one team against not only another but against the national average. But that doesn't always mean they agree. Though both the *Times'* and Ignatin's systems use computers, they represent two distinct philosophies. Rolnick explains: "The *Times* places value on what we call the big threshold event, which turns out not to be something out of Masters and Johnson but simply the winning of football games. That's still what the game is about. George is primarily after a kind of power rating that can compare a team to any other team in the country. That's not what we're doing; our job is to identify a top 20." Still, it should be noted that after the 1982 regular season the *Times'* computer was flexible enough to se-

Ignatin's Powerless-Rated Bottom 10 Teams of 1984

Just for fun, here are the 10 *worst* teams in major college ball:

School	[Lack of] Power Rating
1. Texas El Paso	82.3
2. Cincinnati	82.6
3. Northwestern	84.7
4. Colorado	85.2
5. New Mexico	88.7
6. California	88.8
Oregon State	88.8
8. Louisville	89.0
9. North Texas State	89.6
10. Indiana	90.3

**UTEP left itself wide open
for the college booby prize.**



lect a 10-1 Penn State over an 11-0 Georgia or 10-0-1 SMU.

Ignatin places emphasis on beating the spread. He likes to quote Damon Runyon's famous line: "It's not whether you win or lose that counts, it's whether you beat the spread."

This may sound ridiculous, especially if you try to picture the players running off the field with one finger pointed skyward yelling, "We beat the spread!" And yet, the record shows that the overwhelming number of significant games in college football are won

Football Rises in the East

Want some ammunition for barroom discussions? Here are the major conferences in college football and their power rankings (Army, Navy, Syracuse, Penn State, Rutgers, Boston College, Temple, West Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Miami are combined here to create the mythical "Big East" conference):

Conference	Power Rating
1. Southeastern	110.7
2. Big East	110.6
3. Atlantic Coast	106.0
4. Southwest	105.1
5. Big 10	104.2
6. Pac-10	103.2
7. Big 8	100.8
8. WAC	99.9
and, oh yes,	
9. Ivy League	93.2

by home teams. Which is one reason why so many fans are shocked by upsets on or around New Year's Day, when 8-3 teams "upset" 10-1 and even 11-0 teams.

Ignatin admits that his system isn't perfect. "If I had a vote," he says, "I'd probably make an occasional judgment based on rewarding someone for playing consistently tough opposition. But the advantage of computer ratings is that they encourage teams to play tough schedules rather than rewarding them, like AP and UPI do, for playing weak ones. How's this for a slogan: 'Better Football Through Computers?'" ■

Contributing writer ALLEN BARRA and GEORGE IGNATIN, an associate professor of economics at UAB, are known as football's 'Hyebusters.' Last month Allen and George compiled and wrote the Pro Football Ratings section for I.S.

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- #4 Game 5, 1956 Series. Don Larsen's perfect game vs. Dodgers (Maglie).
- #5 May 7, 1957. Reds (Jeffcoat) vs. Brooklyn Dodgers (Podres).
- #6 June 4, 1957. Cubs (Drott) vs. Brooklyn Dodgers (Koufax).
- #7 Aug. 31, 1957. Giants (Worthington) vs. Dodgers (Maglie).
- #8 Game 6, 1957 Series. Braves (Buhl) vs. Yankees (Turley).
- #9 Game 7, 1957 Series. Braves (Burdette) vs. Yankees (Larsen).
- #10 Sept. 25, 1960. Yankees (Terry) clinch pennant at Boston (Brewer).
- #11 Game 7, 1960 Series. Yankees (Turley) vs. Pirates (Law). Mazeroski's homer.
- #12 May 30, 1961. Yankees (Terry) 7 homer barrage vs. Boston (Conley).
- #13 Game 6, 1962 Series. Yankees (Ford) vs. Giants (Pierce).
- #14 Game 7, 1962 Series. Yankees (Terry) beat the Giants (Sanford).
- #15 Apr. 11, 1962. The Mets' (Craig) 1st game vs. St. Louis (Jackson).
- #16 The 2nd All-Star Game of 1962 played at Wrigley Field.
- #17 Aug. 2, 1962. Phillies (Mahaffey) vs. Mets (Anderson).
- #18 July 1, 1962. Los Angeles Angels (Lee) vs. Yankees (Terry)—noisy audio.
- #19 June 1, 1962. Giants (Pierce) vs. Mets (Craig). Giants return to Polo Grounds.
- #20 June 17, 1962. Cubs (Hobbie) vs. Mets (Jackson).
- #21 May 27, 1962. 1st game of DH, Tigers (Lary) vs. Yankees (Terry).
- #22 June 14, 1962. Mets (Hook) vs. Houston Colt 45's (Bruce). Not recommended for Mets fans!
- #23 Apr. 21, 1963. 1st game of DH, Braves (Burdette) vs. Mets (Cisco).
- #24 May 30, 1963. 2nd game of Memorial Day DH, Cubs (Hobbie) vs. Mets (Hook).
- #25 May 22, 1963. Mets (Willey) vs. Dodgers (Drysdale).
- #26 Apr. 26, 1963. Mets (Jackson) vs. Pirates (Friend).
- #27 Game 1, 1963 Series. Dodgers (Koufax) vs. Yankees (Ford).
- #28 Game 2, 1963 Series. Dodgers (Podres) vs. Yankees (Downing).
- #29 Game 3, 1963 Series. Yankees (Bouton) vs. Dodgers (Drysdale).
- #30 Game 4, 1963 Series. Yankees (Ford) vs. Dodgers (Koufax).
- #31 The 1963 All-Star Game played at Cleveland.
- #32 Game 7, 1964 Series. Yankees (Stottlemire) vs. Cardinals (Gibson).
- #33 Aug. 16, 1964. Phillies (Mahaffey) vs. Mets (Cisco).
- #34 Game 7, 1965 Series. Dodgers (Koufax) vs. Twins (Kaat).
- #35 June 4, 1965. Mets (Fisher) vs. Pirates (Friend).
- #36 May 9, 1965. Yankees (Ford) vs. Senators (Ortega).
- #37 Apr. 22, 1965. Mets (Fisher) vs. Dodgers (Koufax).
- #38 May 11, 1965. Cardinals (Gibson) vs. Mets (Spahn).
- #39 The 1966 All-Star Game played at St. Louis.
- #40 May 22, 1966. Mets (Bearnarth) vs. Giants (Marichal).
- #41 Sept. 4, 1966. Phillies (Short) vs. Mets (McGraw).
- #42 Game 7, 1968 Series. Tigers (Lolich) vs. Cardinals (Gibson).
- #43 May 26, 1968. 2nd game of DH, White Sox (Carlos) vs. Yankees (Monbouquette).
- #44 Apr. 13, 1968. Twins (Jim Perry) vs. Yankees (Monbouquette).
- #45 May 21, 1968. Yankees (Stottlemire) vs. Senators (Coleman).
- #46 Game 1, 1969 Series. Mets (Seaver) vs. Orioles (Cuellar).
- #47 Game 2, 1969 Series. Mets (Koosman) vs. Orioles (McNally).
- #48 Game 3, 1969 Series. Orioles (Palmer) vs. Mets (Gentry).
- #49 Game 4, 1969 Series. Orioles (Cuellar) vs. Mets (Seaver).
- #50 Game 5, 1969 Series. Orioles (McNally) vs. Mets (Koosman). Mets win title.
- #51 May 10, 1969. Reds (Fisher) vs. Expos (Stoneman).
- #53 Apr. 30, 1969. Mets (Seaver) vs. Expos (Wegener). First MLB night game played in Canada.
- #54 May 13, 1969. Braves (Reed) vs. Mets (Gentry). Aaron hits No. 515.
- #55 May 13, 1969. Yankees (Stottlemire) vs. Seattle Pilots (Bell).
- #56 June 29, 1969. 2nd game of DH, Yankees (Kekich) vs. Indians (Paul).
- #57 Apr. 29, 1969. Mets (Koosman) vs. Expos (Grant).
- #58 July 5, 1969. Indians (Hargan) vs. Yankees (Bahnsen).
- #59 July 12, 1970. Yankees (Stottlemire) vs. Senators (Hannan).
- #60 July 5, 1970. 1st game of DH, Senators (Bosman) vs. Yankees (Peterson).
- #61 July 17, 1970. Oakland A's (Hunter) vs. Yankees (Stottlemire).
- #62 The 1971 All-Star Game played at Detroit.
- #63 Game 7, 1971 Series. Pirates (Blass) vs. Orioles (Cuellar).
- #64 July 11, 1971. Red Sox (Culp) vs. Yankees (Peterson).
- #65 Aug. 12, 1971. 2nd game of DH. Angels (Murphy) vs. Yankees (Kekich).
- #66 Aug. 8, 1971. Braves (Phil Niekro) vs. Mets (Williams).
- #67 July 25, 1971. Yankees (Bahnsen) vs. Brewers (Pattin).
- #68 June 6, 1972. Reds (Nolan) vs. Mets (McAndrew).
- #69 June 7, 1972. Reds (McGlothlin) vs. Mets (Seaver).
- #70 June 17, 1972. 1st game of DH. Rangers (Bosman) vs. Yankees (Kline).
- #71 June 18, 1972. Mets (Seaver) vs. Reds (Grimsley).
- #72 June 19, 1972. Mets (Matlack) vs. Astros (Dierker).

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RATINGS

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Maryland, My Maryland

Ignatin's power ratings claim that the Maryland Terrapins will end the '85 regular season with a 10-1 record and a No. 1 rating. When are these teams in the "Big East" actually going to form a conference? They play each other anyway, and certainly they would dominate bowl selection because they bring big TV markets wherever they play.

SEC		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Auburn	115.8	10-1
Florida	115.2	8-2-1
LSU	112.2	9-2
Kentucky	111.5	8-3
Alabama	110.2	8-2-1
Tennessee	110.0	6-4-1
Georgia	107.4	5-5-1
Mississippi	104.7	5-6
Mississippi St.	104.0	4-6-1
Vanderbilt	103.2	4-7

BIG EAST		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
West Virginia	113.4	8-2-1
Penn St.	110.6	8-3
Temple	109.7	7-4
Syracuse	109.3	7-3-1
Rutgers	108.5	5-5-1
Army	108.3	8-3
Navy	107.2	7-4
Boston College	106.6	4-8
Pittsburgh	106.2	4-6-1

ACC		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Maryland	118.5	10-1
Virginia	112.0	8-2-1
Georgia Tech	112.0	9-2
Clemson	109.9	6-4-1
North Carolina	104.8	6-5
Wake Forest	99.5	5-6
Duke	98.1	3-7-1
North Carolina St.	96.5	2-9

SWC		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
SMU	117.2	10-1
Arkansas	112.9	10-1
Baylor	107.9	6-4-1
TCU	106.3	7-3-1
Texas	105.3	6-4-1
Houston	103.0	5-5-1
Texas A&M	102.7	4-6-1
Texas Tech	97.0	4-7
Rice	90.9	1-10

BIG 10		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Ohio St.	111.8	9-1-1
Illinois	110.9	9-2
Michigan	110.9	7-4
Iowa	109.9	8-2-1
Purdue	104.0	5-6
Michigan St.	102.9	5-5-1
Wisconsin	96.5	5-6
Minnesota	93.9	4-6-1
Indiana	90.4	2-8-1
Northwestern	84.7	1-10

PAC-10		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Washington	116.2	10-1
Arizona St.	111.5	10-1
Arizona	109.7	9-2
Southern Cal	109.7	7-3-1
Washington St.	105.3	6-4-1
UCLA	102.3	5-6
Stanford	101.7	6-5
Oregon	99.5	4-6-1
California	90.3	1-10
Oregon St.	89.9	2-8-1

BIG 8		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Oklahoma	116.6	9-1-1
Nebraska	115.5	9-2
Oklahoma St.	115.3	9-2
Kansas	101.1	7-4
Missouri	100.1	6-5
Kansas St.	92.6	4-6-1
Iowa St.	91.2	3-8
Colorado	87.2	2-9

WAC		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
BYU	112.2	10-1-1
Air Force	108.3	8-2-1
Utah	102.2	7-4-1
Hawaii	97.9	7-4
Wyoming	96.8	6-5
San Diego St.	96.3	5-6-1
Colorado St.	90.4	2-9-1
New Mexico	86.8	2-8-1
UTEP	81.4	1-10

IVY		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Penn	104.8	8-2
Harvard	94.6	7-3
Yale	93.2	5-5
Princeton	92.1	4-6
Dartmouth	91.1	5-5
Brown	88.5	3-7
Cornell	88.4	3-7
Columbia	78.2	1-9

INDEPENDENTS		
Team	Projected Power Rating	Projected Record
Florida St.	115.4	8-2-1
South Carolina	113.0	9-1-1
Notre Dame	112.8	9-2
Virginia Tech	108.3	7-3-1
Miami, Fla.	104.6	5-5-1
Tulane	101.4	3-8
Memphis St.	98.1	3-7-1
Southern Mississippi	96.6	5-5-1
Louisville	90.0	4-7
Cincinnati	83.7	2-8-1

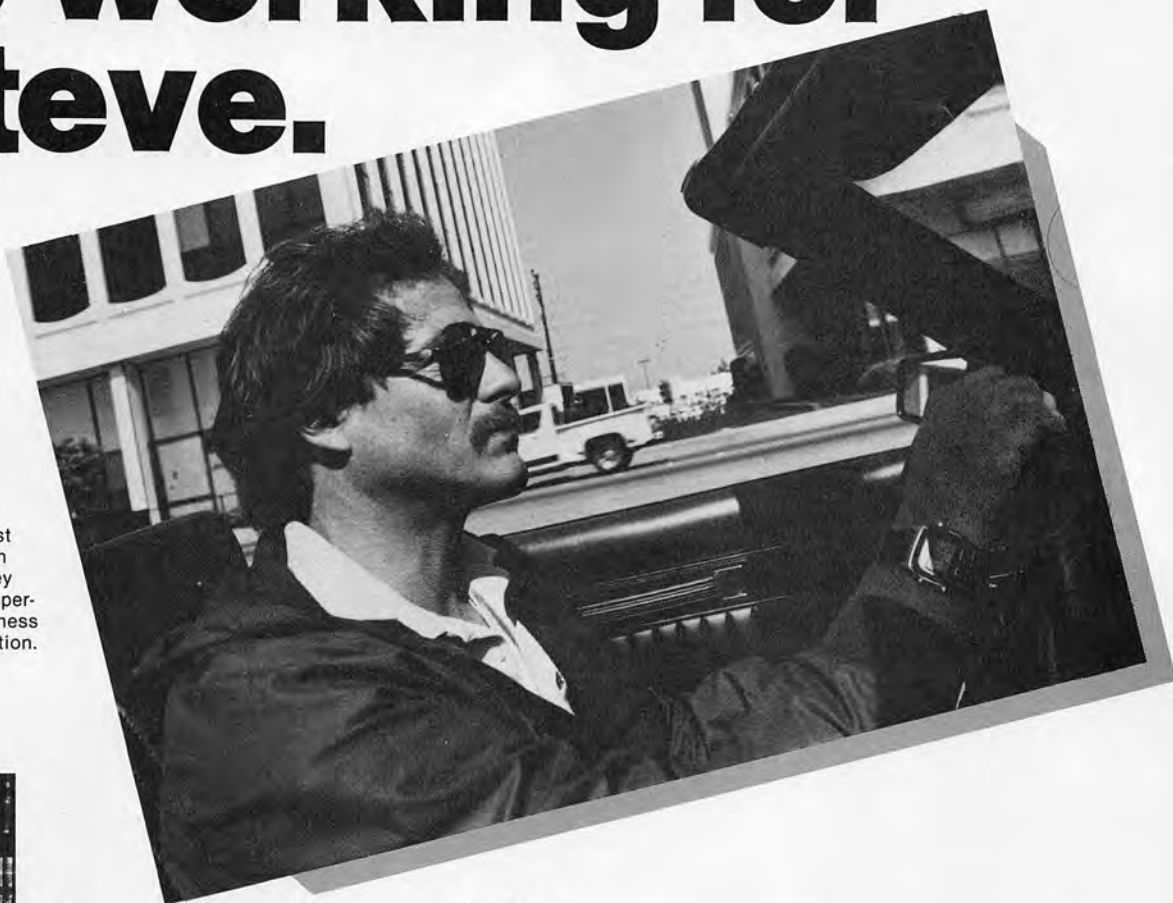
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Sugar: Auburn vs. Notre Dame
Fiesta: Arizona State vs. Illinois
Gator: Arkansas vs. Michigan
Liberty: LSU vs. South Carolina
Freedom: Penn State vs. Iowa
Peach: Kentucky vs. Georgia Tech
Bluebonnet: Oklahoma State vs. TCU
Citrus: Florida State vs. Arizona
Sun: Baylor vs. Alabama
Aloha: Texas vs. USC
Holiday: BYU vs. West Virginia
All American: Air Force vs. Tennessee
Cherry: Army vs. Clemson

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Ken Kurseman [left] attributes his business success to Rose. Mary Helwig [above] sees Rose and baseball as one. And Reds owner Marge Schott sees Rose and Cincinnati as one.



Their Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose

By Lonnie Wheeler

THERE ARE THREE LITTLE CURIOSITIES attached to the screen door of Mary Helwig's white frame house on Cincinnati's east side. The first is a number, which was 95 when the baseball season began and has been gradually dwindling since. The second is a date, September 6. And the third explains the other two: It's a red rose.

The artificial rose has been there since the real one, the one with the capital R, rejoined the local team on August 16 of last year as player, manager, and pursuer of Ty Cobb's all-time record for hits. When she heard that Pete Rose was coming back to the Reds after nearly six sad seasons away, Helwig rushed home from the dentist's office where she worked, bought a roll of meat paper from the neighborhood grocery next door, and got going on signs to welcome Pete back.

"Mother," warned her daughter, "it's only a rumor. It's not definite yet." "It's definite enough for me," said Mrs. Helwig. "Pete's coming back."

She knew deep down that he would all along. He had to. In fact, she had said as much to Ken Kurseman, the entrepreneur food broker who had organized a petition campaign to rescue Rose from free agency and bring him back. Even when Rose signed with Montreal last year, Helwig had faith that he would be back where he belonged. "I told Ken that he would be back because the Reds were in the basement and the only thing that could pull them out was Pete."

It didn't matter to Cincinnati that the city was getting Rose back at age 43; that he was a first baseman without speed or power; that he had never managed. Limitations are for other players. If limitations mattered to Pete Rose, he would still be a river rat on the lower west side of town, scrounging as best he could without a college education. As far as having the tools goes, Rose was never considered one of those guys who couldn't miss. In fact, he probably would have missed

To the people of Cincinnati, Pete Rose is more than a hero and a legend. He's the beating heart of the city

if his uncle hadn't signed him. But to Cincinnati, that's just one of the embraceable, irreplaceable things about its favorite man-child. If Rose had Johnny Bench's arm or power, or Joe Morgan's legs, the city would have merely admired him with a deep but distant affection, as it did them. From Bench, the fans expected miracles in the ninth inning, of which he was uniquely capable. But from Rose, the hometown expected no less than the miracle of life, as applied to the local and national pastime. The day Pete Rose came back, Cincinnati became a baseball town once more.

"The whole town is alive again," said Kurseman on an April evening when Rose's Reds had assumed the unlikely role of division leaders in the National League West. "The game is on television and people are actually watching it. People look forward to reading *The Enquirer* [the city's morning newspaper] now because there will be quotes from Pete."

"The guy is unique. There's nothing in the world that's ever gonna stop Pete Rose. He just cuts through the crap. He's just there."

It's one of the mysteries of modern-day management that the Reds allowed Pete Rose not to be there for all of those years and all of those games and all of those occasions in which caravans of cameras would roll in to witness records being broken. Dollars are not what separated Rose and the Reds after the 1978 season—the celebrated one in

which he got his 3,000th hit and later established a modern National League record by batting safely in 44 straight press-hounded games. The Reds just inexplicably let him leave. Some felt it was because of Rose's undisciplined life off the field—paternity suits and his presence at local racetracks made some people uncomfortable with his image. But the home fans never expected more than baseball out of Pete Rose. They had thrown themselves into him headfirst, only to find their heads crashing into the concrete wills of the men who ran the Reds.

No sooner was Rose gone than Mary Helwig borrowed some men's clothes, stuffed them, called the dummy Dick Wagner, put a noose around its neck, and hung it from her porch. Outraged fans flooded the lines on the sports talk shows. And for six years they never got over it.

"Every season, Pete dominated our calls," said radio host Bob Trumpy of WLW, the station that carries Reds games. "Then, as soon as our show was over, a lot of them would flip over to WCAU in Philadelphia to hear the Phillies game. People said they would not attend a Cincinnati Reds game as long as Pete Rose was gone. And I know those people have since gone back."

The three-game series with the Cubs that followed Rose's return produced the three biggest Reds crowds of 1984, not counting Opening Day. In the months with Rose, Cincinnati crowds averaged nearly 3,000 more than for the same time period the previous season. For the first season since Rose left, average attendance increased at Riverfront Stadium. More people—in the vicinity of 70,000,000—have seen Rose play baseball than any other player in history, and at 44 his drawing power is undiminished. At least in Cincinnati. After 24 dates this season, Reds crowds were up nearly 90,000—more than 24% ahead of last year's pace.

The Reds were playing .500 ball at the time, it should be noted. The people of Cin-

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cinnati expected the team to win more under Rose's influence, but with him on hand the Reds would have a better 1985, no matter how the standings shook down. Rose is gate. He is the player Cincinnati fans want their boys to see, the player women want to see for themselves, bless his trying heart, and the player Cincinnati kids pretend to be.

"He's baseball. He's Cincinnati. He's our town," says Marge Schott, the automobile dealer and new owner of the Reds. "Cincinnati and Pete, it's all mixed up. I'm in this because of Pete."

Rose and Schott are the management parlay that has jumped into Cincinnati's soul. They are both wildly successful hometown people who appeal to the sweat-backed consumer. Rose talks baseball with every Joe, and Schott stands up in her front row box to get the wave going. Together they're called "Hustle and Bustle."

When Schott was a limited partner with the Reds, it was obvious that her kinship was with the people in the seats, not with the other partners. Once, she suggested an "I Don't Like Dick Wagner Night." The first time Rose returned to Cincinnati as a member of the Phillies, she hired an airplane to fly over the stadium pulling a banner that read: "Dear Pete, You Look Better In Red." When Joe Morgan and Tony Perez joined Rose on the Phillies, Schott's banner read: "Pete, Tony, Joe, Help. Love, Marge." On the night Rose put on the Cincinnati uniform again, she flew: "No More Woes, We Got Rose."

That night, Rose slapped a single to right field his first time up, and when the ball was misplayed, he kept going to third, where he arrived headfirst in an explosion of dust, just like 1976. The Riverfront crowd hadn't been so hysterical since Bench homered on Johnny Bench Night.

The Reds had a winning record under Rose last September, and there were but a daring few Cincinnatians who suggested that the team's chances in 1985 would be impaired by an aging first baseman. Even if they thought it, it didn't matter. They wanted to see Pete Rose play baseball forever.

"This city is going to gorge itself on Pete Rose, and they're just as happy as they can be to do that," says Trumpy, who conducts two daily interview shows with Rose that go to Reds stations across the Midwest. "People in this city will take anything they can get about Pete Rose. There's no high water mark for Pete Rose. He is beyond reproach."

"The other night, when Pete ran himself into a double play at third base, nobody said squat. He gets away with anything. Absolutely anything. There are only two other athletes who might come close to Rose in their cities—Larry Bird and Wayne Gretzky. They are treated with such reverence. Gretzky could urinate in the middle of the

street in Edmonton and people would applaud. With Pete, it's the same thing."

Where Rose is from, the only wrongs concerning him are those done to him. One man from Western Hills—Rose's part of town—was angry at the Cincinnati newspapers for giving Bench more publicity than Rose, when Rose was in Philadelphia. When Rose returned, the man was upset because he thought the newspaper pictures of Rose showed him in unfavorable poses. He was finally appeased this April, when Rose was referred to nine times in *Enquirer* headlines during the first week of the season. The same man, who keeps a framed picture of Rose with his daughter when she was captain of the Western Hills High School cheerleaders, was having dinner this spring at one of those rollicking places with sing-along organ music, and when the organist struck up "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," the man imposed his own baseball lyrics. "Pete Rose!" he bellowed. "Pete Rose!"

Rose, always true to his town and conscious that great marketing possibilities still awaited him there, was gracious almost to a fault when he was away from Cincinnati. Rose's agent, attorney Reuven Katz, points out that when his client was playing in Philadelphia, he still referred to the Reds as "we" in casual conversation. Rose and his Reds public could never go through with the divorce. If the Reds and Phillies were tied in the ninth inning with Rose batting with a chance to beat Cincinnati, the town was torn in two.

ALL THE TIME HER HERO WAS gone, Mary Helwig kept one scrapbook on the Reds each year and one on Rose. Rose memorabilia was still the hottest collectible stuff in town. Homes are decorated with it. "I've got all his pictures and posters in frames, right in my living room," says Dan Murphy, an auto mechanic. "I collect anything that's Rose. I've probably spent \$1,500 this year alone. I'd hate to sit down with a computer and figure out how much I've spent on Rose stuff. It would scare me to death. I'm really not in the situation to spend the money I do, but I've got to have it if it's Rose."

Murphy's mother-in-law knows somebody who plays cards with Rose on Thursday nights, and that way Murphy plans to get Rose's autograph on one of the great hitter's bats. He's also determined, before the year is out, to buy Rose's rookie baseball card from 1963. The card has small pictures of Rose, Pedro Gonzalez, Ken McMullen, and Al Weis, and it sells in mint condition for something over \$300. The price will surely go up if Rose breaks Cobb's record, but already Rose's cards have values of up to 20 times those of other superstars. In terms of

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current collectible players, there is Rose, and then there is everybody else—and collectible value, perhaps more than any other standard, is what measures a player's hold on the public. It's the price people will pay for his trinkets. Bench's rookie card goes for about \$40; Reggie Jackson's for \$55; Mike Schmidt's \$75. Most collectors wouldn't trade all of those, and a Rod Carew and Tom Seaver to boot, for one Rose. The collectors sense that eras may belong to the other players, but the legend of the times is Rose's. He's the guy. It's just understood.

The phenomenon of Rose is not confined to Cincinnati, either. An Indiana woman, Helen Fabbri, has been answering Rose's fan mail for the last seven years, and she has handled roughly 200,000 letters in that time. "Probably only about 5% of them are from Cincinnati," says Fabbri. "You name the nation, he's had letters from it. Japan, Africa, Europe, everywhere. When we started doing this in 1978, we were gone on vacation for three months, and when we got back there were eight sacks of mail waiting for us. It took me the better part of the winter to get it answered."

Fabbri and her husband live 165 miles from Cincinnati, but they buy season tickets and they've rented apartments for the summer just to watch their favorite ballplayer. "We like the Reds," says Fabbri, "but Pete's it. He's just special."

Like a good portion of Rose's swear-by fans, she doesn't pause to contemplate why it is that Rose is so special to her. The fans say rhetorically that he's nice, that he hustles like nobody else, that he's done it all with a modest amount of natural ability, that he's grassroots. Their attraction is not an intellectual declaration. It's instinctive. Rose plays baseball with his insides showing, emotionally and unregrettably naked, and his fans bare themselves to him the same way. He loves the game they love, and he allows them to love it as hard as they like, because he does and he holds the records. Rose brings the glory of baseball to people like him. In a certain sense, his fans are rooting for themselves to break Ty Cobb's record this summer.

"Pete Rose is the prime example of the little kid on the end of the bench making it," says Trumpy. "Those fans—he's their memorial. He says 'don't' instead of 'doesn't,' just like the people watching the game. He's the greatest living example of someone who isn't blessed with a lot of physical attributes, and that never stood in his way. If everybody in this country did their job like Pete Rose, the Japanese would still be making rickshaws."

"There's not one banker in this town who does better in his occupation than Pete Rose does in his," says Kurseman. "I find him to

be a motivational force. In the success I've had in business, I give a lot of credit to the chance to be able to watch and listen to someone like Pete Rose. Pete Rose is a person who can change the world. I truly believe he is a genius. The beauty of Pete Rose is that he's really a teacher. Of course, he doesn't know it. He's just being himself. But he's turning my company around."

Kurseman, who intends to establish a Pete Rose library in Cincinnati, collected 50,000 signatures on his petition drive to bring Rose back—he says he could have gotten a million—and along the way encountered masses of people who, incredibly enough, felt as powerfully as he does about one baseball player.

"To say that people were signing passionately is almost an understatement," says Kurseman. "I had people blessing me. They were telling me what a wonderful person I was, and if there was anything they could do to help, they would. They were so thankful there was an outlet for what they wanted. It became a very emotional situation. I'd get letters, and my wife and I would sit down to read them and almost be crying. These people hadn't been to a ball game since Pete left. They wanted him so much. . . ."

Life in the summer just hadn't been the same since Rose left, with his switch hits. It wasn't much different from baseball's first professional team being sold to Denver or some upstart place. Take Rose away, take baseball away, they were the same thing. Mary Helwig remembers when Rose used to hit doubles and triples and home runs, and she would step out on her porch, and at the same time the man who ran the pony keg (that's what Cincinnati calls its neighborhood liquor stores) across the street would step out, and they would wave, saying nothing, then step back inside to listen to the rest of the game.

The six years that he was gone took Rose's power away. He doesn't hit home runs anymore, or many doubles to triples, either, and the pony keg has changed owners several times. Helwig thinks the neighborhood is going to pieces. Kids stand around in parking lots, leaning against cars and playing loud music. Last year, her flag was stolen from the porch. Now she has a note on her television set reminding herself to bring in the flag every night.

But the rose stays. One night, late, she heard kids saying something about the rose on the door, and then heard them getting closer. She just sat there in the dark in the living room until they went away. ■

Cincinnati free-lancer LONNIE WHEELER is known as the 'Charlie Hustle' of writers because of the way he slides head first at his typewriter when on deadline.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL DYNASTIES

If the success of a college football program can be measured by the number of times a team finishes the season in the top 10 of the final Associated Press poll, then Nebraska's Cornhuskers are the most successful team in the country over the last 10 years. The Huskers finished in the top 10 eight times since 1975, missing only in '77 and '81, and finishing third, second, and fourth the last three seasons. Here is a chart showing where the teams finished in the AP top 10.

Rank	School (Times in Top 10)	1975	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84
1.	Nebraska (8)	9	—	—	8	9	7	—	3	2	4
2.	Oklahoma (7)	1	5	7	3	3	3	—	—	—	6
3.	Alabama (6)	3	—	2	1	1	6	7	—	—	—
	Michigan (6)	8	3	9	5	—	4	—	—	8	—
	Penn State (6)	10	—	5	4	—	8	3	1	—	—
	Pitt (6)	—	1	8	—	7	2	4	10	—	—
7.	Texas (5)	6	—	4	9	—	—	2	—	5	—
	Georgia (5)	—	10	—	—	—	1	6	4	4	—
9.	Southern California (4)	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	10
	Ohio State (4)	4	6	—	—	4	—	—	—	9	—
	Arkansas (4)	7	—	3	—	8	—	—	9	—	—
	Washington (4)	—	—	10	—	—	—	10	7	—	2
13.	Notre Dame (3)	—	—	1	7	—	9	—	—	—	—
	UCLA (3)	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	9
	Clemson (3)	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	8	—	—
	Houston (3)	—	4	—	10	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Southern Methodist (3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	8
18.	Florida (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3
	Arizona State (2)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
	Florida State (2)	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	—	—
	Brigham Young (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1
	Miami [Fla.] (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	1	—
	North Carolina (2)	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	—	—	—
24.	Auburn (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	Boston College (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
	Illinois (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
	Texas A & M (1)	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Kentucky (1)	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Maryland (1)	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Purdue (1)	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
	Oklahoma State (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7

By Lawrence Lundgren

IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER

No lead is safe in the NFL. Last year in 56% of the regular-season games, the losing team led at one time during the game; in 17% of the games, the lead squandered was at least eight points. Here is a breakdown of how each team fared in such games in 1984. The number of wins and losses are broken down by the deficit that the winning team overcame, and the teams are ranked by the winning percentage in those games.

American Football Conference											
Come-From-Behind Wins						Leads Lost					
Rank	Team	1-7	8-14	15+	Total	1-7	8-14	15+	Total	Pct.	
1.	Denver Broncos	5	2	0	7	0	1	0	1	.875	
	Seattle Seahawks	5	2	0	7	0	0	1	1	.875	
3.	New England Patriots	2	2	2	6	2	0	0	2	.750	
4.	Miami Dolphins	3	2	0	5	1	1	0	2	.714	
5.	Los Angeles Raiders	3	3	0	6	2	1	0	3	.667	
6.	New York Jets	3	3	0	6	4	1	1	6	.500	
	Cincinnati Bengals	3	2	0	5	3	2	0	5	.500	
	Kansas City Chiefs	3	1	0	4	1	3	0	4	.500	
	Houston Oilers	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	3	.500	
	Indianapolis Colts	2	1	0	3	1	2	0	3	.500	
11.	Pittsburgh Steelers	4	0	0	4	2	3	0	5	.444	
12.	Cleveland Browns	3	0	0	3	5	3	0	8	.273	
13.	San Diego Chargers	1	1	0	2	3	3	0	6	.250	
14.	Buffalo Bills	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	8	.000	

National Football Conference											
Come-From-Behind Wins						Leads Lost					
Rank	Team	1-7	8-14	15+	Total	1-7	8-14	15+	Total	Pct.	
1.	San Francisco 49ers	5	1	0	6	1	0	0	1	.857	
2.	St. Louis Cardinals	5	2	0	7	4	1	0	5	.583	
3.	Washington Redskins	3	0	1	4	2	1	0	3	.571	
4.	Green Bay Packers	4	1	0	5	2	2	0	4	.556	
5.	Los Angeles Rams	3	3	0	6	4	1	0	5	.545	
6.	Chicago Bears	6	0	0	6	5	1	0	6	.500	
	New York Giants	3	1	0	4	4	0	0	4	.500	
	Dallas Cowboys	2	1	1	4	3	0	1	4	.500	
9.	New Orleans Saints	4	1	0	5	6	0	1	7	.417	
10.	Philadelphia Eagles	4	0	0	4	5	1	0	6	.400	
	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2	2	0	4	3	3	0	6	.400	
12.	Atlanta Falcons	3	0	0	3	5	0	0	5	.375	
13.	Detroit Lions	1	2	0	3	5	1	0	6	.333	
	Minnesota Vikings	2	* 1	0	3	4	2	0	6	.333	

By Dave Brown

TURNING POINT

The All-Star break means more than a few days off for many baseball players. For some, it provides a turning point in their season, some for the good, others for the bad. Below is a list of players with at least 300 at-bats whose performances changed drastically during the second half of the 1984 season.

Good First Half, Bad Second Half

Player, Team	First Half	Second Half	Diff.
Dave Engle, Twins	.310	.192	-.118
Johnnie LeMaster, Pirates	.229	.119	-.110
Pat Sheridan, Royals	.329	.237	-.092
Rafael Ramirez, Braves	.303	.217	-.086
Bob Dernier, Cubs	.316	.234	-.082
Claudell Washington, Braves	.324	.245	-.079
Mike Heath, A's	.287	.208	-.079
Kirby Puckett, Twins	.341	.266	-.075
Jim Sundberg, Royals	.288	.213	-.075

Bad First Half, Good Second Half

Player, Team	First Half	Second Half	Diff.
Dave Henderson, Mariners	.222	.353	+.131
Gary Ward, Rangers	.230	.343	+.113
Phil Garner, Astros	.219	.332	+.113
Brian Downing, Angels	.221	.332	+.111
Phil Bradley, Mariners	.247	.349	+.102
Carney Lansford, A's	.259	.347	+.088
Larry Herndon, Tigers	.248	.347	+.083
George Foster, Mets	.230	.311	+.081
Mike Davis, A's	.198	.277	+.079

By Michael Geist

MONEY RECEIVERS

Daryl Turner of the Seattle Seahawks led the NFL in 1984 by catching the highest percentage of passes for a touchdown. Turner caught 35 passes, 10 going for a TD, a .286 percentage. The top 10 receivers in each conference are listed below, based on the highest percentage of receptions going for a touchdown and on a minimum of 25 receptions.

American Football Conference				
Rank	Player, Team	Rec.	TDs	Pct.
1.	Daryl Turner, Seahawks	35	10	.286
2.	Mark Clayton, Dolphins	73	18	.247
3.	Preston Dennard, Bills	30	7	.233
4.	Louis Lipps, Steelers	45	9	.200
5.	Bruce Hardy, Dolphins	28	5	.176
6.	Wesley Walker, Jets	41	7	.171
7.	Steve Largent, Seahawks	74	12	.162
8.	Bobby Duckworth, Chargers	25	4	.160
9.	Butch Johnson, Broncos	42	6	.143
10.	Ray Butler, Colts	43	6	.140
	Nat Moore, Dolphins	43	6	.140
12.	John Stallworth, Steelers	80	11	.138
13.	Stanley Morgan, Patriots	38	5	.132
14.	Wes Chandler, Chargers	52	6	.115
15.	Mark Duper, Dolphins	71	8	.113
16.	Willie Scott, Chiefs	28	3	.107

National Football Conference				
Rank	Player, Team	Rec.	TDs	Pct.
1.	Freddie Solomon, 49ers	40	10	.250
2.	Hoby Brenner, Saints	28	6	.214
3.	Paul Coffman, Packers	43	9	.209
4.	Henry Ellard, Rams	34	6	.176
	Willie Gault, Bears	34	6	.176
6.	Clint Didier, Redskins	30	5	.167
7.	Roy Green, Cardinals	78	12	.154
8.	Mike Quick, Eagles	61	9	.148
9.	Bob Johnson, Giants	29	4	.146
10.	Theo Bell, Tampa Bay	29	4	.138
11.	Doug Marsh, Cardinals	39	5	.128
12.	Zeke Mowatt, Giants	48	6	.125
13.	Lionel Manuel, Giants	33	4	.121
14.	Leonard Thompson, Lions	50	6	.120
15.	Dwight Clark, 49ers	52	6	.115
	Phillip Epps, Packers	26	3	.115

By Jerry Tapp

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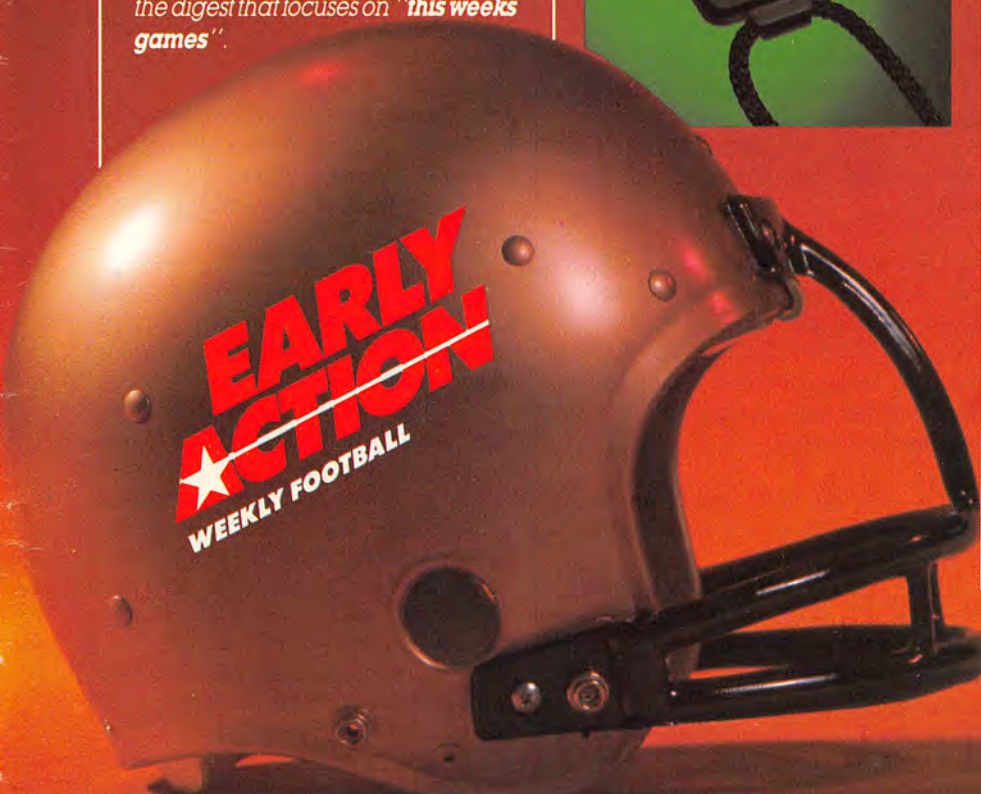
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THE GOOD DOCTOR

Of all the bicycle events in the world, can you tell me which one is the longest?

B.A., BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

The most time-consuming bike race in America thus far has been the Tour de Refrigerator, in which amateur cyclists must complete 10 laps around Chicago Bears first-round draft choice William Perry.

We have been racking our brains trying to remember the name of Dan Issel's first team in the old American Basketball Association? Who did he play for? How about Julius Erving and Artis Gilmore?

B.M., RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

It's funny how few people really remember the ABA. Issel, now retired from pro ball, began his career with the Kentucky Colonels, a team that played with drumsticks in their hands and with buckets on their heads. Gilmore also played for that team, with a specially designed bucket to accommodate his goatee. As for Julius Erving, he was the star player for the Virginia Squires, a team so cheap that their red, white, and blue balls were the kind you inflate at the beach.

Payne Stewart was playing golf on TV the other day, and I noticed that something had happened to the bottom of his pants. Did moths get at them? They were quite short.

T.G., PADUCAH, KENTUCKY

Those are called knickerbockers. You might be interested to know that a certain NBA team in New York also plans to wear these trousers next year, along with the gray undershirts inspired by their new rookie.

Did anybody ever impress you more as a shot-putter than Brian Oldfield, Randy Matson, and Parry O'Brien?

M.C., DALLAS, TEXAS

Yes. I once saw Dean Martin put down 60 shots in 59 minutes.

Having heard most of the announcers in sports, whom would you rate as the most biased sportscaster of the bunch?

J.B., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

My vote probably would go to Johnny Most,

voice of the Boston Celtics. With Johnny, visiting teams are lucky if he agrees to refer to them as Team X. He has so much contempt for opponents that he refers to most of them as Johnson, refusing to give their first name. Johnny Most is so popular in Boston Garden, however, that he will be raised to the ceiling and hung from the rafters upon retirement.

Maybe you can reveal how much money Joe Montana and Dan Marino received for doing that diet soft-drink commercial together.

J.E., DENVER, COLORADO

Surprisingly, the two quarterbacks did not agree to do that ad. They really did meet in the hallway. A TV crew just happened to film it.

Who is the toughest, roughest, leanest, meanest, baddest man in wrestling today?

P.I.N., NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

Oh, probably Hulk Gable, University of Iowa.

Those stories that Indy 500 winner Danny Sullivan used to drive a cab in New York City, are they true?

G.B., TINLEY PARK, ILLINOIS

No. Sullivan used to drive a hack in New York, but the hack was one of the town's veteran sports writers.

Any new big races coming up for the Kentucky Derby champion, Spend a Buck?

L.P., CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY

Yes. Spend a Buck will be running next January in the second annual Pile of Greed Handicap at Garden State.

Do you think off-the-field behavior or bad manners should have any effect on whether a baseball player is voted into the Hall of Fame?

H.W., FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

Funny you should ask. I was talking to Steve Carlton about that very subject the other

day, and you know what he said? Nah. Me, neither.

Give me some details about this big sports movie that Sylvester Stallone and Mariel Hemingway are supposedly making.

M.D., EUGENE, OREGON

In "Rocky's Personal Best," retired heavyweight champion Rocky Balboa risks everything—his health, his wealth, his dignity, and his brother-in-law's wristwatch—for one shot at the Olympic hurdles. Hemingway plays his coach, Richard Pryor plays his archrival, Mercury Creed, and Burgess Meredith plays a hurdle.

What happened after Montana and Marino finished that spontaneous, clever, completely original Pepsi commercial?

N.S., BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Mean Joe Greene threw them his jersey.

Could you publish an entire list of all the famous and world-class athletes who grew up in the state of Idaho?

D.M., POCATELLO, IDAHO

Yes, I could.

Everybody in baseball is always talking about pitchers needing surgery and "having an operation like Tommy John's." What did the doctors do to him?

R.J., POMONA, CALIFORNIA

First, surgeons removed John's arm from its shoulder. They took it to a factory in Rochester, Minn., where it was sanded, varnished, and stuffed with cork. After a rubdown and a manicure, the arm was sewn back onto the pitcher, and he has been using it effectively ever since. Unfortunately, there are side-effects. For example, John's new arm sometimes shakes hands without warning, thumbs umpires out of games, and gets fresh with ballgirls.

In a fever to know what really goes on in the world of sports? Will you feel awful until you find out? Send for a diagnosis to: The Good Doctor, 1020 Church Street, Evanston, Illinois, 60201—then wait patiently.



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THE FAN

By ED McMAHON

Football Made Me A Team Man

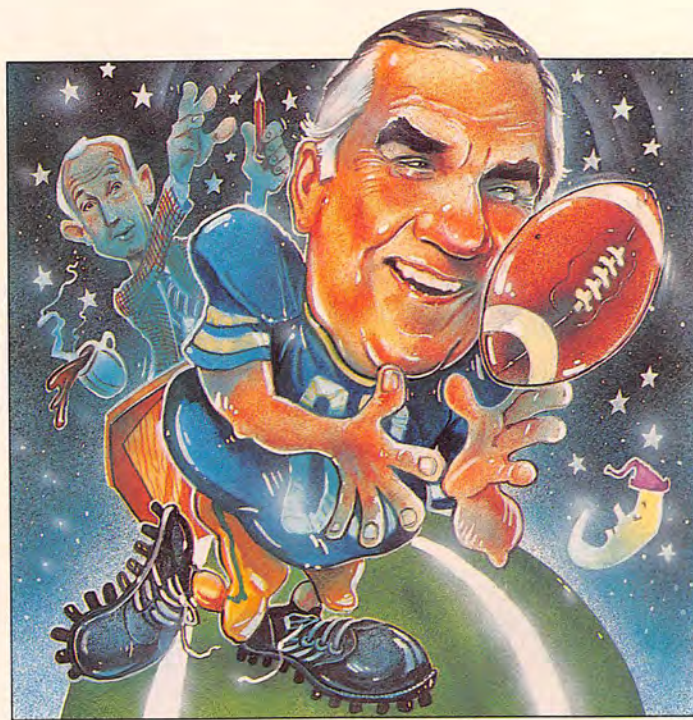
FOOTBALL IS MY favorite sport, both as a participant and a fan. I love the game because it's so well done, it's become so refined. The movement is a true art form.

I first became enthralled by the game in high school and on sandlots in the Boston area. I wasn't all that good, but I tried out for the Boston College team when they had seven All-Americans in the early '40s. Rocco Canali, Fred Normitz, Charlie Ferbish . . . they were all there. Understandably, I never flourished footballwise at BC; I only lasted through spring practice. But when I joined the Marines, I became captain of the base team, and we won the regimental championship.

The thing that I liked the most back then was how the end operated. I've always fantasized about being the Lynn Swann of my era. There's a grace to the way a guy runs out, makes a turn, doubles back—and the quarterback gets the ball just where it's supposed to be. That to me is ballet.

The running plays are also wonderful to watch. Now that the game has become so technical you can figure them out. We're taught so much by sportscasters these days—who's doing what to open a space, what the defensive backs are doing—but I love those passing plays.

I had to leave the game later on, when I had a wife and baby, so I became a big booster of the Philadelphia Eagles. I didn't get as much satisfaction from this—you don't have that body contact, that feel of moving somebody who's trying to move you. Or the feel of running out and catching a pass. But having tried to do it once, you understand the game better, and appreciate it a lot more. When you see someone do



'I've always fantasized about being the Lynn Swann of my era. There's a grace to the way a guy runs out and the quarterback gets the ball to him. That's ballet.'

what you once did, there's added enjoyment—it's more than being a fan, an element of respect is added to observing the game.

Today I love watching the teamwork, the preparation. There's a buildup there that's similar to walking out on stage. Everybody is taking his position, the quarterback is set, he barks his orders, and when that ball is snapped to him, it's like the start of a stage performance. For from then on, he's the man, he's in charge—he's like a guy doing a standup comedy routine.

Doing "The Tonight Show" also depends on teamwork. We're in a free-for-all in conversation, and are looking to be amusing, to get the audience and to hold them. So there is a team effort out there—Doc, Tommy, myself, the directors, producers, writers, and, of course, Johnny. We're all part of a team!

My football experience taught me how to sacrifice ego and blend into a group. Johnny's the chief honcho, he has to get the big laughs. I compare it to a basketball fastbreak, where the both of us are taking the ball downcourt, but he's gonna sink the basket. In basketball and football you have to put your-

self in a subordinate position. The team comes first.

Because I know this, I can appear in other formats—beauty pageants, with Dick Clark, whatever it might be. The individual performance isn't as important as the entire show. When I host "Star Search" I know I'm not the star—the performers are the main attraction.

Besides learning to blend in, I also developed a certain confidence from football. I exerted an effort, a wish to do something, and then I was able to do it on the field. I've felt at times that my life is following a master plan, and football has played a key role.

And speaking of teamwork, Doug Flutie and the rest of the Boston College squad were just wonderful, magnificent. In that closing game, that "Hail Mary" pass, that was one of the most

thrilling things I've ever seen in sports. I think he's super.

Flutie conjured up memories for me when he was at BC. When I saw that menacing helmet, that golden globe, and that uniform, and heard "Go, Eagles, go," it evoked memories. I wrote Doug a letter and he wrote me back, thanking me for my kind words.

Today I love the Raiders, the Eagles, the Rams, the 49ers (Johnny's a Raider fan), but I don't have too many Walter Mitty dreams of being out on a field now. I'm quite happy doing what I'm doing.

Best of all, I have two sons, and one of them, Michael, was an all-county halfback on a high school team in Bronxville, N.Y. I saw him in a game last season and he made an on-side kick, and then recovered the ball himself. On the next play he took the ball in for a touchdown. I was 30 feet tall watching him. He had done something I had only dreamed about doing. ■

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